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INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
14 pages • ₹6.00

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NEARBY

JD(S) moves legislators to hotel ahead of RS polls

BENGALURU

With less than 48 hours to go for Rajya Sabha elections in which the race for the fourth seat currently seems to be tight, the JD(S), which has been seeking the Congress' help to ensure victory of its candidate, moved its legislators to a star category hotel in Whitefield here on Wednesday fearing poaching.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

'CWMA within its right to discuss Mekedatu project'

MYSURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said that Karnataka will file a suitable reply to the Tamil Nadu government's plea to the Supreme Court seeking restraint on discussion on Mekedatu project by Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA). The Tamil Nadu government has filed a miscellaneous application, Mr. Bommai told reporters.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 4

'Many Muslims attending classes without hijab'

MANGALURU

Most Muslim girl students at the Government First Grade College, Uppinangady in Dakshina Kannada district, where the row over wearing hijab in classrooms has resurfaced, are attending classes by removing the headscarf even as the college suspended 31 Muslim students on the charge of defying the dress code, said Sanjeeva Matandoor, MLA, Puttur.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

RBI raises rates to tame inflation

MPC increases repo rate by 50 basis points, lifts FY23 inflation estimate to 6.7%

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Wednesday voted unanimously to raise the repo rate by 50 basis points to 4.90% in a bid to slow inflation which it estimates will average 7.5% in the current April-June quarter.

The RBI's move will increase borrowing costs across the board, from those seeking loans to buy cars and homes, to MSME firms looking to raise capital.

The MPC also decided to remain focused on the withdrawal of accommodation which had been provided to support the COVID-19 hit economy, to ensure that inflation remains within the target going forward, while supporting growth, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said announcing the decision.

"Inflation has steeply increased much beyond the upper tolerance level. A large part of the rise in inflation is primarily attributed to a series of supply shocks linked to the war [in Ukraine]. In these circumstances, we have started a gradual and orderly withdrawal of extraordinary accommodation instituted during the pandemic," he explained.

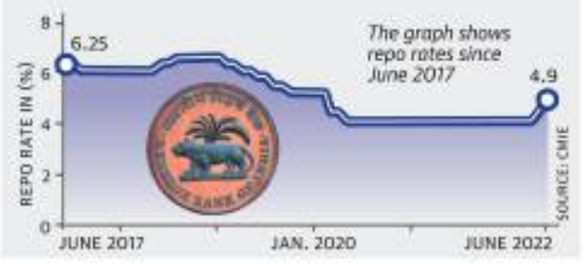
Based on the assumption of a normal monsoon in 2022, and average crude oil price (Indian basket) of $105 per barrel, retail inflation was now projected at 6.7% in 2022-23, with QI at 7.5%; Q2 at 7.4%; Q3 at 6.2%; and Q4 at 5.8%, with risks evenly balanced, the RBI said.

About 75% of the increase in inflation projections could be attributed to the food group, Mr. Das said, observing that "the recent spike in tomato prices" were adding to food inflation.

The MPC retained its forecast for real GDP growth for 2022-23 at 7.2%. Output would expand by 16.2% in Q1, by 6.2% in Q2, 4.1% in Q3 and 4.0% in Q4, the RBI said.

"Further rate hikes remain clearly on the table, with the reference to the revised repo rate of 4.9% remaining below the pre-pandemic level," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

Shooting up | After remaining flat at 4% from May 2020 to April 2022, repo rate — the rate at which RBI lends to commercial banks — is showing a rising trend



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MORE REPORTS ▸ PAGE 12

GST, IBC will push growth once clouds recede: CEA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The pandemic and the ongoing geopolitical conflict may have "temporarily overshadowed" the government's recent structural reforms like the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), but they will spur India's growth potential higher once these "clouds recede", Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran asserted on Wednesday.

He said the Indian economy was facing considerable challenges at present "both from global macro-monetary policy and geo-political developments".

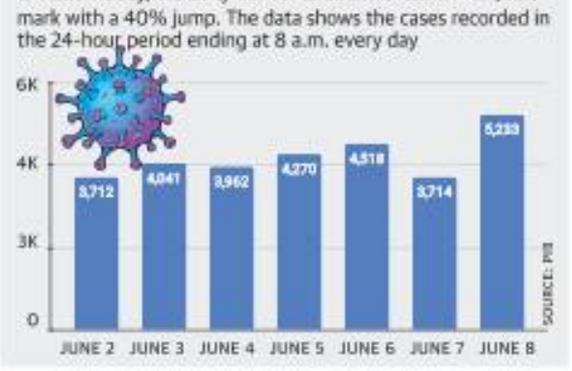
"Adroit and flexible policymaking" would be crucial to manage this year's challenges of maintaining a sustainably high growth rate, moderate inflation, keep the fiscal deficit under balance, and ensure that "the external value of the Indian rupee remains stable", he noted, adding that the Finance Ministry was well prepared for the balancing act this entailed.

Imploring people to "look beyond the current concerns over inflation, prices of oil, food, fertilizers, and central bank interest rates", Mr. Nageswaran said India had emerged out of the previous decade with its financial system repaired and improved, and balance sheet strength in the corporate, banking and financial sectors.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Leap in cases

On Wednesday, the daily COVID-19 count crossed the 5,000 mark with a 40% jump. The data shows the cases recorded in the 24-hour period ending at 8 a.m. every day



Masks mandatory for air travellers

DGCA directive follows court order

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on Wednesday ordered airlines and airports to ensure that passengers wear masks at all stages of their journey. Those who fail to comply with the order could be de-boarded from a plane or barred from flying for a minimum of three months. "We will also start carrying out checks at airports," Arun Kumar, Director-General, DGCA, told *The Hindu*.

"Airlines shall ensure that all passengers wear face masks properly and continue to wear them throughout the journey. The masks can be removed under exceptional circumstances and for permitted reasons only," the order said.

The directive from the DGCA follows a Delhi High Court order last week in which the court said COVID-19 norms were not being implemented seriously on the ground and instructed the regulator to issue "separate binding instructions" for air passengers.

Airlines will also have to make regular announcements on COVID-appropriate behaviour. Those who fail to adhere to norms could be de-boarded or treated as "unruly passengers" who are liable to be banned from flying for a minimum of three months.

The DGCA issued a similar order in March last year, but between March and April this year several States removed the mask mandate, creating confusion among travellers. While initially airports and airlines were also required to ensure social distancing, this requirement has been dispensed with, a government official confirmed. Those who violate the new order could face fines as per the laws in the State and could be handed over to security agencies.

SURGE IN CASES IN BENGALURU IS 'CONCERNING' ▸ PAGE 3

Keeping faith

Devotees lighting lamps at the Kheer Bhavani temple festival in Ganderbal district, Jammu and Kashmir, on Wednesday. Fewer devotees attended the festival held under tight security in view of the recent attacks on Pandits. • NISSAR AHMAD (REPORT: PAGE 8)

Mithali Raj announces retirement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Mithali Raj, the world's leading batter in women's cricket, with a slew of records, announced her retirement on Wednesday. India's captain in women's Tests and ODIs, had an international career spanning 23 years and scored a cumulative 10,868 runs across the three formats.

REPORT ▸ PAGE 13

Textbook revision: Lessons on State icons of Bhakti and Sufi movements dropped

However, lessons of national icons have gained prominence

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

Skeletons continue to tumble out of the closet even after the dissolution of the Rohith Chakrathirtha-headed School Textbook Revision Committee.

In the latest revelations, lessons on State icons of the Bhakti and Sufi movements, such as Akka Mahadevi, Purandaradasa, Kanakadasa, and Santa Shishunala Sharif have been removed in the revised textbooks, while national icons have gained prominence. The committee has completely dropped the 'Bhakti movement and Sufi movement' lessons from the class VII, Social Science part-I textbook. But national icons in Bhakti and Sufi movements, like Mira Bai, Guru Nanak, and Chaitanya's lessons are repeated in class VI and IX, Social Science part 2 textbooks.

There is no mention about State icons in the Bhakti and Sufi movements from classes I to X in the revised Social Science textbooks. The Baragur Ramachandrappa-headed textbook revision committee had added 'Bhakti movement and Sufi movement' lessons in class VII, Social Science part 1 textbook and given information about South Indian icons such as Andal from Tamil Nadu and State icons of these movements like Akka Mahadevi, Purandaradasa, Kanakadasa, and Santa Shishunala Sharif along with national icons of Bhakti movement like Chaitanya, Mira Bai, and Guru Nanak. The committee had also kept the same lesson in class IX Social Science part 2 with additional information.

Exceptions

The revised books mention only Kanakadasa and Purandaradasa's names and two of their works in the Class IX social science part 2 textbooks, while the rest of the icons' names have been removed.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 3

Mistaken to be wealthy, son of BMTC driver kidnapped

Child rescued within hours, guard of farmhouse arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Mistaken to be from a wealthy family, an 11-year-old boy was kidnapped for ransom by a security guard and his sister-in-law. It later turned out that he was the son of a BMTC driver.

In a swift action, Hennur police rescued the boy, cracking the case within three and a half hours after the parents approached them with the complaint.

DCP East Division Bhimashankar Guled said the victim, a Class V student, was kidnapped while he was playing outside his house in Hennur on Tuesday evening. The accused, identified as Divya Durga, approached him, and lured him with chocolates. During the conversation, she got to know that the boy wanted to learn swimming, and she promised to take him to a swimming pool and teach him.

Took him to Jigani

Excited by the offer, the boy agreed, and Durga took him in an autorickshaw to Jigani as per the plan, and handed him over to the prime accused Gourav Singh, a security guard working in a farmhouse in Jigani.

Divya Durga is said to have got information about the boy from her friend, who worked as a domestic help in the area, and presumed that the boy belonged to a rich family.

• ILLUSTRATION: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

- The accused is said to have got information about the boy from her friend, who worked as a domestic help in the area, and presumed that the boy belonged to a rich family.

After taking the boy to Jigani, the accused – both from Nepal – threatened him and locked him in the farmhouse and took the phone number of his mother. They told her that the boy had been kidnapped, and demanded ₹50 lakh ransom. The accused threatened the couple that they would harm the boy if they complained to the police.

After some hesitation, the scared parents approached the police, who swung into action, and two special teams were formed. While one started analysing the technical details like CCTV footage to identify the accused, another team tracked the phone from where the ransom call was made.

A team headed by ACP N.S. Sakri traced the call to the farm house, and rushed there along with a team. The three acre farmhouse had high-rise walls around the property, where the accused Gourav Singh was living with his family.

Absconding

Using their vehicle, the police scaled the walls to enter the premises, and rescued the boy, who was later reunited with his family. He was in a state of shock as the accused had threatened to kill him, Mr. Guled said.

The police have arrested Gourav Singh and detained the domestic help, Mangita, who had given information to Durga about the boy. Durga is absconding.

SC questions Centre on vacant NEET-PG seats

'You cannot play with students' future'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday expressed its disapproval of the Centre and the Medical Counselling Committee for leaving over 1,400 vacant seats in the NEET-PG course for the academic year 2021-22.

The court was hearing a plea seeking a special round of counselling for the vacant seats available under the all-India quota. The petition was filed by doctors who appeared in NEET-PG 2021.

A Vacation Bench of Justices M.R. Shah and Aniruddha Bose said 1,456 vacant seats would mean a dearth of equal number of qualified doctors for the country. "Not a single seat should be left vacant even for a single course. You cannot play with the future of students," the court told the committee's counsel.

The Health Ministry later filed an affidavit informing the court that the 1,456 vacant seats cannot be filled by "stray counselling" as the software used for conducting online counselling was already closed and refund of the security deposit for participation in PG counselling 2021 had been initiated.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Satisfied with action against spokespersons: Iran Minister

Modi talks of 'long-standing cultural links'

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Iran is satisfied that the Indian government has dealt with those responsible for comments on Prophet Muhammed, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said during his official meetings in Delhi on Wednesday, the first such visit by a dignitary from an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member country since the controversy erupted.

On Sunday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned the Indian Ambassador to condemn the remarks, one of more than a dozen countries to protest bilaterally. The BJP had sacked two spokespersons over the issue.

Mr. Abdollahian, who is on his first visit to India since he was appointed last year, met with National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and held bilateral talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, where the two sides signed an agreement on mutual legal assistance in civil and commercial matters.

He also called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi who "recalled long-standing civilisational and cultural links between India and Iran", an official statement said, adding that the Prime Minister looked forward to welcoming Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi at an "early date".

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian in Delhi. • PTI

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Mithali Raj retires

23 In years, the span of Mithali Raj's international cricket career. She announced retirement on Wednesday from all forms of international cricket. Mithali ended her glorious career with a record 7805 runs in 232 ODIs. She also represented India in 12 Tests and 89 T20 Internationals. The 39-year-old had already retired from the T20 format and her decision to stop playing all formats was expected after India's One Day International World Cup campaign ended in March. She started her career as a 16-year-old. PTI

Monkeypox, a real risk

1400 The number of monkeypox cases worldwide as on Wednesday. The risk of monkeypox becoming established in non-endemic nations is real, the WHO warned. The zoonotic disease is endemic in humans in nine African countries but outbreaks have been reported in several other states — mostly in Europe, particularly the U.K., Spain and Portugal. So far, no deaths have been reported in these countries. Cases have been reported mainly, but not only, among men who have sex with men. AFP

Hike in crop prices

100 In ₹ per quintal, the hike in minimum support price (MSP) for paddy to ₹2,040 for the 2022-23 crop year approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). The CCEA, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the increase in MSPs for all 14 summer crops for the 2022-23 crop year. The MSP of the 14 summer crops has been increased in the range of ₹92-523 per quintal. The maximum hike has been given to sesame of ₹523 per quintal, while the lowest is for maize at ₹92 per quintal. PTI

Rise in coal production

33.9 In percentage, the increase in coal production in India to 71.30 million tonnes (MT) in the month of May. Coal output in the corresponding month of the previous fiscal was 53.25 MT, as per provisional data from the Ministry of Coal. Of the top 37 coal-producing mines, 23 produced more than 100%, while the performance of 10 mines stood between 80 and 100%. The thermal power generation went up by 26.18% in May over the corresponding month of the previous fiscal. PTI

Suit against the FBI

1 In billion dollars, the value of the suit filed against FBI by Simone Biles, Aly Raisman and other star U.S. gymnasts for alleged mishandling of the investigation into sexual abuse by former team doctor Larry Nassar. Nassar is serving a life sentence after pleading guilty in late 2017 and early 2018 to sexually assaulting athletes while working as a sports medicine doctor at the USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University. Hundreds of women — including Olympic gold medalists Biles and Raisman — have accused Nassar of sexually abusing them. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The Ukraine war and the global food crisis

Why are food prices rising? Does Ukraine have other options of exporting its grain other than the Black Sea routes?

THE GIST

- Global food prices are on the rise. Ukraine and its allies accuse Russia of weaponising food, saying that its blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports is the primary reason for the rising prices, while Moscow has blamed Western sanctions for the crisis.
- Before the Russian invasion of Ukraine started, Ukraine had the capacity to export up to six million tonnes of wheat, barley and maize a month, mainly through its ports in the Black Sea/Sea of Azov. Now, several Ukrainian port cities are under Russian control and have thus brought exports from Ukraine to a grinding halt. While Russia's food and fertilizer sectors are not directly targeted by western sanctions, the sanctions on its financial sector, which makes payments difficult for Russia, has complicated its exports, including foodgrains.
- Both the UN and Turkey have initiated talks with Russia to find a solution to resume exporting both Ukrainian and Russian grain, but no breakthrough has been achieved so far. Russia and Ukraine together account for more than a quarter of the world's wheat supplies.

STANLY JOHNY

The story so far: Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent sanctions on its economy have sent global food prices soaring, threatening to push millions of people, especially those in low-income countries, into starvation. Ukraine and its allies in the West have accused Russia of weaponising food, saying that its blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports is the primary reason for the rising prices, while Moscow has blamed Western sanctions for the crisis. As the war, in its fourth month now, is still raging in Ukraine's east with no political solution on the horizon, the United Nations and Turkey have initiated talks with the Russian leadership to facilitate the exports of grains and fertilizers from Russia and Ukraine.

How serious is the food crisis?

Many countries were facing growing food insecurity even before Russia's war. Climate shocks, conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted supply chains, pumping up prices of both commodities and crops. The war in Ukraine has aggravated this situation. As of June 1, 2022, the Agricultural Price Index was 40% higher compared to January 2021, according to the World Bank. Maize and wheat prices rose 42% and 60%, respectively, from the levels of January 2021. Global food, fuel and fertilizer prices are projected to be sharply higher this year and will remain elevated into 2024, the Bank estimates.

Almost all economies in the world have been hit by higher food prices. Across the western world, there's a cost-of-living crisis with food and energy prices rocketing. In the U.S., Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told senators on Tuesday that the country was facing "unacceptable levels of inflation" which would stay so in the coming years. In the U.K., inflation numbers have already hit a 40-year high. Almost 90% of emerging markets and developing economies experienced food price inflation greater than 5% this year. Low-income countries that are reliant on imports for basic food consumption, are the hardest hit. According to the UN World Food Programme (WFP), Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen remain at 'highest alert' as hotspots with "catastrophic conditions", as Afghanistan and Somalia are added to this category.

How important are Russia and Ukraine for global food security?

Russia and Ukraine together account for more than a quarter of the world's wheat supplies. Russia's share in the global exports of wheat, the world's most widely grown crop, is some 20%, while Ukraine accounts for 8%, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS). Wheat is a staple food for at least 35% of the world's population, as per the estimates of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). About 50 countries depend on Russia and Ukraine for more than 30% of their wheat imports, according to the FAO. If Azerbaijan and Georgia source more than 80% of their imported wheat from Russia and Ukraine, Turkey, Egypt, Bangladesh and Lebanon meet over 60% of their imports from these two countries. Besides wheat, Ukraine is the world's eighth largest producer and fourth largest exporter of corn, accounting for 16% of global exports. Furthermore, Ukraine, which produces up to 46% of sunflower-seed and safflower oil is the world's largest exporter of sunflower oil. So, the war and the sanctions have clearly hit the world's bread basket region, adding pressure on food prices.

What is causing the crisis?

Before the Russian invasion of Ukraine started, Ukraine had the capacity to export up to six million tonnes of wheat, barley and maize a month, mainly through its ports in the Black Sea/Sea of Azov. In the eight months before the war, some 51 million tonnes of grain were exported through Ukraine's Black Sea ports, according to the WFP. But exports have collapsed since the invasion as the Russian war effort is entirely focused on Ukraine's eastern and southern parts along the Black Sea/Sea of Azov coast. Now, several Ukrainian port cities, including Mariupol, Kherson and Berdyansk, are under Russian control. Although the southern cities of Mykolaiv and Odessa, which is known as the 'Pearl of the Black Sea', are still with the Ukrainians, commercial ships cannot dock at these ports because of two reasons – Ukraine has mined the waters around these ports as a deterrent against potential Russian attacks and Russia has enforced a naval blockade in the waters of the Black Sea.

Many countries were facing growing food insecurity even before Russia's war. Climate shocks, conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic had disrupted supply chains, pumping up prices of both commodities and crops

These factors have in effect brought exports from Ukraine to a grinding halt. According to Ukrainian authorities, more than 20 million tonnes of grain are stuck in warehouses and containers. June marks the beginning of a harvesting season in Ukraine and this season, the country is expected to produce some 30 million tonnes of corn, wheat and sunflower oil, half of which are meant to be exported. But unless the blockade is lifted and Ukraine starts exports, the country would not even find enough warehousing capacity to store this year's harvest. This would make the food crisis worse.

Besides the blockade, the western sanctions on Russia are also contributing to the crisis. Russia, besides being the world's top wheat exporter, is also a leading exporter of fertilizer, an essential commodity for food production. Russia and its ally Belarus together account for some 38% of potassic fertilizers, 17% of compound fertilizers, and 15% of nitrogenous fertilizers. Fertilizer prices are also on the rise, which would make food production costlier. Russia's food and fertilizer sectors were not directly targeted by western sanctions, but the sanctions on its financial sector, which made payments difficult for Russia, has complicated its exports, including food grains. Also, the targeted sanctions on Russian oligarchs have choked finances for the agricultural industry.

Is there a way out?

Russia has suggested that it would resume exports (not sure whether Ukrainian or Russian grains) from the ports on the Sea of Azov that it controls (Mariupol and Berdyansk) and that it would open a corridor for commercial vessels in the Black Sea if Ukraine demines the ports it controls (mainly Odessa and Mykolaiv). But these proposals, which were discussed in Ankara on Wednesday, could be implemented only as part of a deal between Moscow and Kyiv, with blessings from the West as Russia seeks sanctions relief in return for opening the maritime corridor. Ukraine, however, is sceptical, saying it doesn't trust Moscow. No breakthrough has been achieved so far.

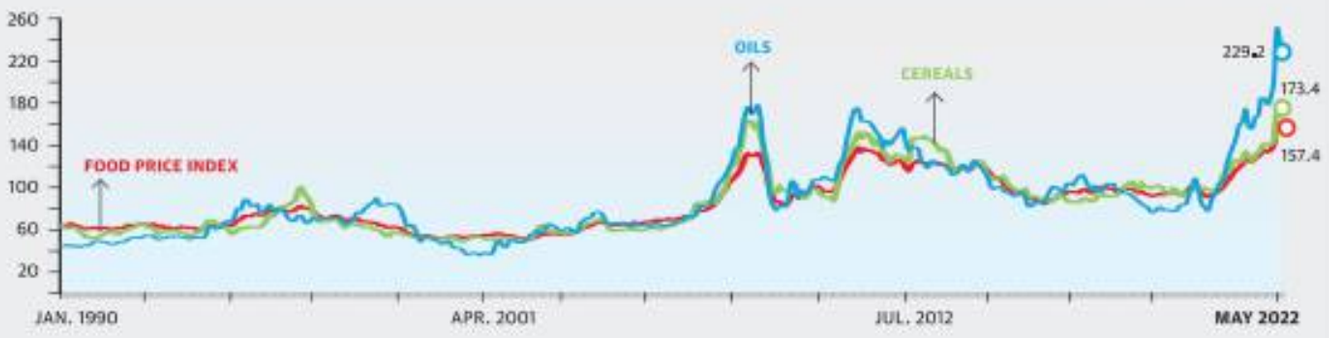
Ukraine has little good options to ship its grains out of the country if its ports remain blockaded. One option is to transfer the grains overland to the Baltic states, either through Poland or Belarus, and then ship them out from the Baltic Sea ports. According to UN officials, Kyiv has dismissed the proposal to seek help from Belarus, a Russian ally that also faces western sanctions. A *Wall Street Journal* report stated on Tuesday that the U.S. State Department also stays staunchly opposed to giving any concession to Belarus in return for help for moving food grains. Moving them overland via Poland is challenging because the rail track gauge in Poland is smaller than that of former Soviet countries such as Ukraine and the Baltic states – this means cargoes will have to be moved to different trains at the Polish-Ukraine border and then again at the Polish-Lithuania border to start exporting them from the Baltic ports. So, the only practical solution to take Ukrainian grains to the global markets is to open the Black Sea routes. And to ease the pressure on global food items, Russia will also have to step up exports of both grains and fertilizers. For this, Kyiv and its allies may have to strike a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Deepening food shortage | Russia's invasion of Ukraine has stoked food inflation in several nations due to a supply shortage.

The supply disruption in the Black Sea region pushed up the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) global food price index to record high levels in March. Price index for cereals and oils also surged to their highest levels since 1990. The two warring countries are the biggest exporters of commodities such as wheat, sunflower oil, barley, and corn. But, due to restricted supply, commodity prices have rocketed in countries highly dependent on the two. By **Jasmin Nihalani**

Record highs

The chart shows the FAO's monthly food price index. The index measures the changes in the international prices of a basket of commonly-traded food commodities. The food price index scaled to an all-time high in March 2022. The index for cereals and oils soared to record highs due to the war



High dependency

The tables list the countries which were the biggest importers of sunflower oil, wheat, barley and corn from Russia and Ukraine between 2016 and 2020. For instance, India imported $8.6 billion worth of sunflower oil from Ukraine and Russia, which was about 86% of its total sunflower oil imports

SUNFLOWER OIL DEPENDENCY
India sourced 86% of its sunflower oil needs from Russia and Ukraine

Country	Sunflower oil import ($ bn)	Sunflower oil dependancy (%)
India	8.63	86.1
China	4.25	87.4
Netherlands	2.14	95.3
Spain	1.74	64.9
Turkey	1.66	51.0
Italy	1.33	56.0
Egypt	1.12	96.2
France	0.51	61.2
U.K.	0.48	46.3
Poland	0.25	56.0

BARLEY DEPENDENCY
China imported $14.3 billion worth of barley from the two countries

Country	Barley import ($ bn)	Barley dependancy (%)
China	14.30	13.6
Turkey	5.18	42.4
Israel	1.95	46.8
Spain	0.96	11.9
Belarus	0.85	58.6
Cyprus	0.67	33.1
Japan	0.32	2.0
Azerbaijan	0.21	76.7
Romania	0.15	4.0
Switzerland	0.15	22.9

WHEAT DEPENDENCY
Egypt, Turkey and Azerbaijan had nearly 70% wheat dependency

Country	Wheat imports (in $ bn)	Wheat dependency (%)
Egypt	9.73	72.6
Turkey	5.53	69.5
Indonesia	2.79	21.4
Nigeria	1.39	19.3
Morocco	1.31	23.8
Philippines	1.26	16.8
Azerbaijan	1.05	77.2
Thailand	0.91	24.4
Israel	0.90	50.3
Vietnam	0.88	18.7

CORN DEPENDENCY
Seven countries imported over a billion worth of corn from Russia and Ukraine

Partner	Corn imports (in $ bn)	Corn dependency (%)
China	3.37	60.6
Netherlands	2.38	39.7
Egypt	2.30	24.8
Spain	2.28	27.6
Turkey	1.68	61.3
Italy	1.14	20.0
Rep. of Korea	1.00	9.5
Israel	0.72	45.0
Portugal	0.61	28.4
Germany	0.53	11.7

SOURCE: UN COMTRADE, FAO

Unused piles: Scattered grain sits inside a warehouse damaged by Russian attacks in Cherkaska Lozova, outskirts of Kharkiv, eastern Ukraine on May 28. • AP

Customs destroys drugs worth over ₹270 crore

Nearly 240 kg of narcotics seized over past two years

ADITHI HOLLA
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Customs Zone, in collaboration with the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), on Wednesday destroyed over 240 kg of a variety of seized narcotic drugs, such as heroin, MDMA, ganja, and pseudoephedrine, seized over the past two years worth ₹270 crore. The seized narcotics were destroyed in an incineration unit at Tumakuru.

The Drug Law Enforcement Handbook prescribes the process of destruction of narcotics which have been attempted to smuggle in and out of the country.

Balamurugan K., Bengaluru Commissioner of Customs, explained that this process is routinely done to dispose seized narcotics by filing an application before the Magistrate under the NDPS Act, 1985. After obtaining the Magistrate's approval, the police then move to destroy these drugs by incineration with the approval of the State Pollution Control Boards.

Customs officials showing the seized drugs in Bengaluru on Wednesday. • SUDHAKARA JAIN

Before destruction, these drugs are stored in safely secured warehouses with 24x7 surveillance where they are periodically examined and reviewed.

After it accumulates at a critical mass level, it is taken for disposal.

This level depends on the value of these drugs and its volatility. A sample of the seized drug is however retained as evidence for the prosecution.

Among recent seizures, in February, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence tracked a Ugandan man who swallowed over 1 kg of heroin worth over ₹7 crore at the Kempegowda International Airport. In May, two young advocates were arrested at the Museum Road Post Office with nearly 400 grams of hydroponic weed valued over ₹2 lakh.

'BMRCL will repair Mysuru Road potholes'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

After a video clip showing a crater-filled Mysuru Road-NICE Road stretch attracted large traction, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), on Wednesday clarified at a press conference that the stretch is maintained by the BMRCL.

Officials also said the BMRCL will repair the road in three days.

"The road in question belongs NHAI and presently with BMRCL. A joint inspection with the authorities of BMRCL was held on May 16 and the stretch between Nayandahalli to Jnana Bharathi was taken over BBMP. However, the stretch from Jnana Bharathi to NICE Road Junction is with BMRCL. The NHAI authorities have also been kept informed about the pending road development in the above mentioned stretch, including roadside storm-water drains," a release from the BBMP said.

Bringing luxury back to flying at KIA

Flying in style: The '080 Lounge' inside Kempegowda International Airport.

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Domestic and international flyers at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) can now relax at the luxurious '080 Lounges', recently unveiled by Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL).

All the aspects in the domestic and the international lounges, including art, artisans, and heritage, revolve around Bengaluru, and even the name, 080, is attributed to the city's trunk dial code.

While the first phase of the project is now open, once the second phase is also inaugurated, each lounge will occupy a space of over 2,000 square feet.

BIAL officials said that the concept idea for the lounges was planned three to four years ago, with an aim to bring back luxury and sheen into flying. "Over the years, as more people gained access, flying lost the element of luxury and became a mass transport. With these lounges we look to bring back that element," they explained.

Accordingly, the amenities at the domestic lounge include a cocktail bar, a quiet room with a library, a snug area, and a VIP suite, among others, and the international lounge has a whiskey bar, whiskey tasting area, and a wellness zone with spa and therapy. The marble flooring and different textures of wood and metal used in the interior decoration add on to the luxury factor.

There is also an entertainment pod, phone booths where travellers can take their work calls, and many other areas inside the lounges.

Speaking about the design and branding ideas behind the lounges, BIAL sources said that two principles - greenery and fluidity - were mainly considered while building the lounges. A lot of greenery, including an inverted garden from the ceiling, has also been incorporated in the lounges to get symmetrical with Bengaluru's 'Garden city' image while curves and free flowing designs have been employed to ensure that the lounges feel like a lot of different zones instead of one big area.

The lounge can be accessed by those affiliated with loyalty programmes, partner airlines, and any other flyers by paying a package fee. The domestic lounge, in the first phase, has a capacity of 300 people and the international lounge has a capacity of 235.

There is also a '080 Transit Hotel' which can be accessed by travellers on a flexible hourly basis fee. The culinary operations across the board will be headed by celebrity chef Abhijit Saha. The food prepared will include fresh, local, and chemical-free ingredients.

Water adalat today

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will hold a water adalat on Thursday from 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m..

According to a release, it will be held at its following sub-divisions: East 2-3, East 1-2, South 2, South East 4, West 2, South West 2, South East 2, North West 3, Central 2, North 2, North East 1 and North Village 1.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mrs. Devarajamma W/o.Manjunath, Aged about 41 years, residing at No.203/1, A-Block, Kaggalipura, Bangalore-560076 has LOST THE ORIGINAL 1) GIFT DEED DATED 02.12.2015, WHICH IS REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.BSK-1-10159-2015-16 OF BOOK-I, STORED IN CD NO.BSKD332, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUB-REGISTRAR, BASAVANAGUDI (BANASHANKARI), BANGALORE, 2) SALE AGREEMENT DATED 16.06.2016, WHICH IS REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.BSK-1-02743-2016-17 OF BOOK-I, STORED IN CD NO.BSKD361, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUB-REGISTRAR, BASAVANAGUDI (BANASHANKARI), IS AS BASAVANAGUDI BANGALORE and 3) CANCELLATION OF SALE AGREEMENT DATED 14.09.2016, WHICH REGISTERED OCCUMENT NO.BSK-1-09090-2016-17 OF BOOK-I, STORED IN CD NO.BSKD373, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SUB-REGISTRAR, BANGALORE LOST AT BANASHANKARI BUS STAND, ON 07.06.2022, BETWEEN 5PM TO 6 PM. A Complaint is lodged in online dated 08.06.2022 vide Lost Report bearing No.0241144/2022, Finders may return the same to the near Police Station or contact at the below address.

BHASKAR.M,
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS,
Office: No.739, 3rd Floor, 60th Cross, Near Bhashyam Circle, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore -560 010. Land line: 080-48520073

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **Mr. ROHAN SURYA S/o Mr. Surya Pujari** and his wife **Mrs. PRECILLA GONSALVES** are intending to purchase the Schedule property mentioned hereunder from **SMT.R.INDIRA DEVI W/o Sri.S. Raj Mohan,** any personis objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/ claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client/s shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property Bearing **Site No. 100,** PID no. 96-336-100, situated at **Patel Manjyappa Layout, Bengaluru,** BBMP Ward new No.22, earlier Assessment No. 30/1, Katha No. 185 of Vishwanathanagenahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, in all measuring **1200 square feet** along with the residential building standing thereon, consisting ground, first and second floor and bounded on the: **East by : Property No. 81, West by : 25 Feet Road, North by : Property No. 99, South by : Property No. 101.**

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., LL.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-560 043. Contact : 9845646428

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
NETAJI SUBHAS SOUTHERN CENTRE, BENGALURU

SAI/NSSC/PERS/RECRUITMENT /2022 Dated: 10.06.2022

ADVERTISEMENT

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S.No	POST	NUMBER OF POST
1	Young Professional (Academics)	01
2	Young Professional (Athlete Relation Manager)	03-04

The details of recruitment along with application form are available at SAI website i.e; **http://sportsauthorityofIndia.nic.in/ and www.saisouthbangalore.org**

SAI reserves all the rights to withdraw this advertisement at any time without assigning any reason. For any recruitment related query, e-mail to **jobs.saibangalore@gmail.com.**

Sd/-
Regional, Director Incharge,
Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BENGALURU (CCH – 1)
MISCELLANEOUS PETITION NO. 663 / 2022

PETITIONERS:
1. SRI CHANDANMAL PUKHRAJ BOTHRA TRUST, No. 2, 7th Cross, Jaibharath Nagar, Bengaluru-560033.
2. MR. C. PUKHRAJ BOTHRA, Son of Shri. Chandanmal Bothra, Aged about 65 years, Residing at No. 14, 7th Cross, Jaibharath Nagar, Bengaluru-560033.
3. MRS. LEELA KANWAR, Wife of Shri. C. Pukhraj Bothra, Aged about 61 years,Residing at No. 14, 7th Cross, Jaibharath Nagar, Bengaluru-560 033.
4. MR. HEMANTH KUMAR BOTHRA, Son of Shri. C. Pukhraj Bothra, Aged about 43 years, Residing at No. 14, 7th Cross, Jaibharath Nagar, Bengaluru-560033.
5. MRS. KHUSHBOO RANKA, Wife of Shri. Vijay Ranka, Aged about 39 years, Residing at No. 14, 7th Cross, Jaibharath Nagar, Bengaluru-560033.

AND

RESPONDENTS: NIL

PUBLIC NOTICE BY WAY OF NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION

Whereas the above-named Petitioners have filed a petition in Miscellaneous Petition No. 663 of 2022 before the Hon'ble Principal City Civil & Sessions Judge, at Bengaluru (CCH-1) under Section 92(1), read with Section 151 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 seeking permission to sell the below-mentioned Schedule Property to third party/ies for valuable consideration. By way of its order dated 23.05.2022, the Hon'ble Court has directed the aforementioned petitioners to carry out newspaper publication of this notice and has posted the matter on 27.06.2022.

Accordingly, the public is hereby put to notice that, any person interested in the aforementioned proposed sale is hereby called upon to appear and state their objections, if any, before the Hon'ble Principal City Civil & Sessions Judge, at Bengaluru (CCH-1) in person or by pleader duly instructed, on **27.06.2022**, at 11 A.M.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of southern portion of property bearing No. 3 (Old No. 18), New No. 7, New BBMP Municipal No. 3, PID No. 86-53-3, situated at Venkataramanappa Road, Jalbharathnagar, Bangalore, Ward No. 86, presently coming under BBMP limits, measuring East to West 53 feet and North to South 22.6 feet and bounded on: **East by:** Venkataramanappa Road, **West by:** Site No. 15/1 belonging to the Trust, **North by:** Site No. 7/1 (Old No. 3/1), **South by:** Site No. 5 (Old No. 17)

Given under the hand & seal of the court, this 31st day of May, 2022.

Advocate for Petitioners:
M/s Agraa Legal, Advocates and Consultants,
2nd Floor, Shivashankar Plaza,
No. 19, Lalbagh Road,
Richmond Circle, Bangalore 560 027

By Order of the Court,
Asst. Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Bangalore

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PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK,
SASTRA Centre, 1st Floor, Circle Office ,PNB House ,Market Road
Ernakulam,682011, Phone: 0484-4015348,4015354, Email:cs4459@pnb.co.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s).The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against respective properties.

The Auction will be held on 13-07-2022 from 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM

Name of the Branch Name of the Account Name & addresses of the Borrower/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged / Owner's Name(mortgagers of property(ies)	(A) Dt. of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFESI ACT 2002 (B) Outstanding Amount as on 30-04-2022 (C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFESI ACT 2002 (D) Nature of Possession Symbolic / Physical / Constructive	(A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Lakhs) (B) EMD (C) Bid Increase Amount	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
446000 - COCHIN, VYTILA **(1) M/s. Astapadi Foundation,** Secretary- **Mr. Deepak Krishnan,** 39/40, Pinnacle Arcade, Chitur Road, Cochin-682011 **(2) M/s. Astapadi Foundation,** Chairman - **Mr. Shanavas V.K,** 39/40, Pinnacle Arcade, Chitur Road, Cochin-682011 **(3) M/s. Astapadi Foundation,** Treasurer – **Mr. Ansar Hussain,** 39/40, Pinnacle Arcade, Chitur Road, Cochin-682011 **(4) Mr. Shanavas V.K,** Trustee and Guarantor, S/o Moidu, Kariattil House, Kuranjiyoor PO, Chavakkad via, Trichur **(5) Mr. Deepak Krishnan,** Trustee and Guarantor, S/o M Gopalakrishnan, 37/3839 Karthika, Avenue 7, Bank Road, Kaloor, Cochin-682017 **(6) Mr. Ansar Hussain,** Trustee and Guarantor, S/o Iqbal Hussain, Srikrishna Nagar, Yousufguda, Ameerpet, Hyderabad- 500 045. **(7) Mr. Aneesh Paul Behanan,** Trustee and Guarantor, S/o P K Behanan, 30/1035, Panayil, Kanyampuzha Road, Vytila, Cochin- 682019 **(8) Mr. Alankar Ghag,** Trustee and Guarantor, S/o Chandrakanth D ghag, 5/206 India united mill, no1 building, Dr B A Road, Parel, Mumbai – 400 012. **(9) Mrs. Sabitha S Nair,** Trustee and Guarantor, W/o Deepak Krishnan, 37/3839 Karthika, Avenue 7, Bank Road, Kalcor, Cochin 682017 **(10) Ms Saritha S Nair,** Trustee and Guarantor, D/o Sukumaran Nair, Astapadi, Thrikkannamangal, Kottarakkara, Kollam – 691506 **(11) Mrs. Saraswathi Amma** (Late) Guarantor, W/o M Gopalakrishnan, 37/3839 Karthika, Avenue 7, Bank Road, Kalcor, Cochin-682017 **(12) Smt. Sajna Shanavas,** Guarantor, Kariattil House, Kuranjiyoor P.O, Chavakkad via, Trichur.	All that part and parcel of property consisting of apartment bearing no. 601, on the 6th Floor, Block 14 of the multi storied building "DAZZLE", Ibbaluru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore, measuring a super built up area of 1329 square feet, together with 276.43 square feet undivided share, right,title and interest in land bearing Sy No 28, Khata No 341, Ibbaluru Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore with one covered car parking space bearing No 191, in the basement floor, owned jointly by Mr Shanavas VK and Mrs Sajna Shanavas. **Boundaries: North:** Land bearing Sy. No. 20, **South:** Land bearing Sy. No. 26. **East:** Land bearing Sy. No. 29 & portion of Sy. No.34, **West:** Land bearing Sy. No. 23.	A) 13(2) - 18-04-2016 B) Outstanding Amount as on 30-04-2022- Rs.21,18,93,184.40 (Rupees Twentyone crore eighteen lakh ninety three thousand one hundred eighty four and paise forty only) with further interest and charges from 01.05.2022. C) Possession Notice - 29-11-2016 D) Symbolic possession	a) Rs.57,25,000/- (Rupees Fifty Seven lakh Twenty Five thousand only) b) Rs.5,72,500/- (Five Lakhs seventy two thousand five hundred only) c) Rs 10,000/- (Ten Thousand only)	No such information known to the best of the knowledge of Authorized officer. The bidders are requested to do their own due diligence

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: (1) The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions. (2) The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" portal **http://www.mstcecommerce.com/** on **13-07-2022 @ 11.00 AM to 05.00 PM.** (3) For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer www.ibapi.in, **www.mstcecommerce.com,https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app&www.pnbindia.in.** (4) The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.. (5) The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel/adjourn/discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final. (6) The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". (7) The secured asset will not be sold below the reserve price.

Date: 08-06-2022, Place: Ernakulam

(Sd/-) Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank, Circle Sastra Centre, Ernakulam

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Classes Start From : 23rd June 2022
: 9740472728 / 8660661366

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAZI** Ahmad, S/o Anees Ahmed, R/ a No.53, 2nd Cross, New Extension, Kalasipalyam, Bangalore-560002 have changed my name to Razi Ahmed vide affidavit dt: 07.06.2022 sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, B'lore.

I, **ANEES** Ahmed, R/a No.53, 2nd Cross, New Extension, Kalasipalyam, Bangalore-560002 have changed my minor Son's name from Rabi Ahmed to Rabee Ahmed vide affidavit dt: 07.06.2022 sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, B'lore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Mrs. MANI NATARAJAN MUDILIAR,** age 78 years, W/o Maj M Natarajan, R/at No. JVV 4470, Kammasandra Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560043 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **MANI NATARAJAN MUDILIAR** and **MANI NATARAJAN** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **MANI NATARAJAN MUDILIAR** only for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 7th June 2022, sworn before Advocate and Notary **C. Sharada** at Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I **SYED** YAHIYA (holder of Indian Passport No. T0685737) son of Syed Burhanuddin having permanent residence in D/R No 858, Madina Road, Channapatna, Karnataka 562160 (complete postal address in India) and presently residing in Ghala Industrial Area, OCP Comp Flat No 16, PC111, PO Box 2573 (completer postal address in Oman) intend to change my name from SYED YAHIYA (old name) to SYED YAHIYA IMRAN (new name) for all practical purpose. Any objection towards my name may please be communicated to Embassy Of India, Muscat, Diplomatic Quarters, Al Khuwair, P.Box.No.1727, Postal Code 112,Ruwi, Sultanate Of Oman.

I, **Ananya** Anand D/o Peddibhotla Chendrashekar Pooma Anand R/o #432, Heritage Embassy Appt, 8th Main Road, Malleswaram, Bengaluru, 560055 have changed my name to Ananya Peddibhotla for all purposes.

THANKSGIVING

Thankyou for favours received - DNR

Thankyou for favours received - RVS

Thankyou for favours received - SM

SITUATION VACANT

MEDICAL

Required:- 1) ENT Surgeon [M.S/ DLO/DNB) 2] LAB Technician [DMLT, MLT] Kondaveedu ENT Hospital, Narasaraopet-522601, Guntur (Dist.) Andhra Pradesh. Salary: Negotiable. Cell:9440758731, 7981548446.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Lakshmamma. G. URF Laxmamma Bai** W/o Late Venkateshaiah, Aged about 72 years, residing at Rampura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District, States that my name **Laxmamma Bai & Lakshmamma. G.** both are same name & Date of Birth is **10-10-1950.** My Husband working in Army his rank was Sepoy. The Army No. 2753914K/SR/Post-64/FP, for all purposes. Sworn to before Advocate & Notary, A.R. Nagendra, Channapatna. Date: 25.05.2022

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, 1st FLOOR, TRIVENI COMPLEX, ABIDS, HYDERABAD

O. A . No. 152 OF 2022

BETWEEN :

Canara Bank, MID Corporate Branch, Somajiguda, 6-3-1086, Vista Grand Towers, Rajbhavan Road, Somajiguda, Hyderabad 500 082 ... Applicant

And

M/s. MNR Engineering & Projects & others ... Defendants

To

1. **M/s. MNR Engineering & Projects,** (D.1) (formerly Mailella Developers), Rep. by its Managing Partner Sri M. Pawan Kumar @ Pawan Kumar Reddy, No. 540, 17th Main, 4th Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore - 560102.

Please take notice that the above case is filed by the Applicant bank for recovery of **Rs.16,38,28,313.17 ps.,** with interest and costs and the case is posted to **07.07.2022** for your appearance. If you fail to appear in the above said Tribunal on the above said day at **10:30 A.M.** in person or through Advocate, the case will be decided in your absence as per law.

(BY ORDER OF THE COURT)

A.V.S.S. PRASAD,
Advocate,Flat No. 103, 1st Floor, Jagannadh Residency,St. No. 6, Vidyanagar, Hyderabad - 044 Cell: 9849038467.

BUSINESS OFFER

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PUBLIC NOTICE

COSMOPOLITAN CLUB
CIN: U93411TN1934NPL000349
Regd. Office: 63, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002
Phone: 044-28584353 Fax: 044-28414356
E-mail: cosmonetcentre@gmail.com
Website: www.cosmopolitanclubchennai.com

NOTICE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") of the Club is scheduled to be held on Saturday, the 2nd July 2022 at 10:35 a.m. to transact the agenda as set out in the Notice calling for the EGM.

Notice dated 27.5.2022 was dispatched to all members by Registered Post / Courier on 8 th June 2022.

The Club is providing the facility of voting through electronic means ("remote e-voting") in compliance with Sec.108 of the Companies Act 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014. The business as set out in the aforesaid Notice will be transacted through electronic voting facility provided by M/s Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL). The Executive Committee has appointed Sri K.M.Subheramaniam, Advocate, as Scrutinizer to oversee the remote e-voting.

The remote e-voting period begins on Wednesday, 29.6.2022 (9.00 a.m.) and ends on Friday, 01.7.2022 (5.00 p.m.). The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting after 5.00 PM on 01.7.2022. During this period, Members whose name appear in the Register of Members as on 10.6.2022 and those who are eligible as per Article-48 only shall be entitled to exercise their vote through e-voting process.

Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting may attend the Meeting but shall not be allowed to vote again in the meeting. The members attending the meeting who have not already cast their vote by remote e-voting can exercise their right to vote at the meeting. The facility for voting by manual ballot will be made available at the meeting venue.

The notice of the meeting is displayed in the club's website www.cosmopolitanclubchennai.com and the e-voting website of CDSL: www.evotingindia.com. In case of grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, Manager, (CDSL) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurex, Mafatlal Mill Compounds, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai-400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com or call on 022-23058738 / 022-23058542/43.

/ By order of the Executive Committee /
Place: Chennai **K Sundareswaran**
Date: 9.6.2022 **President**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The future of Indian secularism

It is premature to pronounce the end of constitutional secularism; it has only suffered a setback

RAJEEV BHARGAVA

THE GIST

- Constitutional secularism is marked by two features. First, critical respect for all religions. The second feature is that the Indian state should abandon strict separation but keep a principled distance from all religions.
- Party-political secularism, however, is a nefarious doctrine practised by all political parties, including by so-called 'secular forces'. This secularism has dispelled all values from the core idea and replaced them with opportunism. It upholds opportunistic alliance with religious communities, particularly for the sake of immediate electoral benefit.
- For the moment, the state-driven political project of secularism and its legal constitutional form appear to have taken a hit. But this 'setback' can be turned into an opportunity to revitalise the social project of secularism. A peaceful and democratic secularism from below provides a vantage point from which to carry out a much-needed internal critique and reform of our own respective religions, to enable their compatibility with constitutional values of equality, liberty and justice.

With various West Asian nations condemning comments made by BJP spokespersons on Prophet Muhammed and Islam, the discourse on secularism and religious tolerance has once again become prominent. In this article dated August 12, 2020, Rajeev Bhargava is optimistic that constitutional secularism can be revived and brought back as the backbone of Indian democracy.

Our public discourse is resounding with triumphalism on the one hand, and lament on the other over the death or defeat of secularism. It seems as if the bhoomi pujan has burnt its bodily remains, and if anyone cares to claim it, the ashes of secularism will be buried near a dargah or immersed in the Saryu. As a child of the republic founded in 1950, one part of me wishes to join the lament. But the other part, nudging me to contemplate this moment, asks: does anything in India ever die? Silenced, yes; forced temporarily to go underground, maybe; transmigrate to another bodily form under a different name, possibly. But death? Gone forever? No!

Three years ago, on August 6, 2017, I had written, in this very paper – in the article, Constitutional or party-political secularism? – that secularism has paid a heavy price in our country for being at the centre of public and political discourse. It has been persistently misused and abused. Distinguishing it from constitutional political secularism, I called this abused entity, 'party-political secularism'.

Respect and critique

Constitutional secularism is marked by at least two features. First, critical respect for all religions. Unlike some secularisms, ours is not blindly anti-religious but respects religion. Unlike the secularisms of pre-dominantly single religious societies, it respects not one but all religions. However, given the virtual impossibility of distinguishing the religious from the social, as B.R. Ambedkar famously observed, every aspect of religious doctrine or practice cannot be respected. Respect for religion must be accompanied by critique.

It follows that our state must respectfully leave religion alone but also intervene whenever religious groups promote communal disharmony and discrimination on grounds of religion (an inter-religious matter) or are unable to protect their own members from the oppressions they perpetuate (an intra-religious issue). Therefore, and this is its second feature, the Indian state abandons strict separation but keeps a principled distance from all religions. For instance, it cannot tolerate untouchability or leave all personal laws as they are. Equally, it may non-preferentially subsidise schools run by religious communities. Thus, it has to constantly decide when to engage or disengage, help or hinder religion depending entirely on which of these enhances our constitutional commitment to freedom, equality and fraternity. This constitutional secularism cannot be sustained by governments alone but requires collective commitment from an impartial judiciary, a scrupulous media, civil society activists, and an alert citizenry.

Advent of opportunism

Party-political secularism, born around 40 years ago, is a nefarious doctrine practised by all political parties, including by so-called 'secular forces'. This secularism has dispelled all values from the core idea and replaced them with opportunism. Opportunistic distance (engagement or disengagement), but mainly opportunistic alliance with religious communities, particularly for the sake of immediate electoral benefit, is its unspoken slogan. Indifferent to freedom and equality-based religious reform, it has removed critical from the term 'critical respect' and bizarrely interpreted 'respect' to mean cutting deals with aggressive or orthodox sections of religious groups – unlocking the Babri Masjid/Ram temple for puja, and forsaking women's rights in the Shah Bano case. It has even been complicit in igniting communal violence. This party-political 'secular' state, cozying up alternately to the fanatical fringe of the minority and the majority, was readymade for takeover by a majoritarian party. This was accomplished by removing the word 'all' and replacing it by 'majority': respect only the majority religion; never criticise it, but recklessly demonise others; and ridding the state of the corrupt practice of opportunistic distance not by restoring principled distance but magically abolishing distance altogether. This is untrammelled majoritarianism masquerading as secularism, one that opposes 'pseudo-secularism' without examining its own equally unethical practices.

Today, Indian constitutional secularism is swallowed up by this party-political secularism, with not a little help from the Opposition, media and judiciary. Yet, I hesitate to pronounce the death of constitutional secularism. Grounded in millennia-old pluralist traditions, it cannot easily be brushed aside. Instead, I prefer the word 'setback'. Brakes have been suddenly applied to this largely state-driven political project of dealing with inter-religious issues such as communal harmony. It has come to a screeching halt, broken down. Does secularism then have a future?

Two crucial moves

I suggest two crucial moves to kick-start the discourse and practice of secularism. First, a shift of focus from a politically-led project to a socially-driven movement for justice. Second, a shift of emphasis from inter-religious to intra-religious issues. I invoke the name of two great leaders, B.R. Ambedkar and Jawaharlal Nehru, to make my point. B.R. Ambedkar dispassionately observed that when two roughly equal communities view each other as enemies, they get trapped in a majority-minority syndrome, a vicious cycle of spiralling political conflict and social alienation. This was true in the 1930s and the 1940s. Today, feeling extremely vulnerable, Indian Muslims appear to have opted out of this syndrome. When this happens, the syndrome implodes. The result is neither open conflict nor harmony, simply an exiled existence for Muslims in their own homeland.

B.R. Ambedkar also claimed that when communities view each other as a menace, they tend to close ranks. This has another debilitating impact: all dissent within the community is muzzled and much needed internal reforms are stalled. If so, the collapse of the syndrome unintentionally throws up an opportunity. As the focus shifts from the other to oneself, it may allow deeper introspection within, multiple dissenting voices to resurface, create conditions to root out intra-religious injustices, and make its members free and equal. After all, the Indian project of secularism has been thwarted as much by party-politics as by religious orthodoxy and dogma.

Europe's example

Here, Europe's example helps. The fight against the oppression of the church was as much a popular struggle as it was driven by the state. Europe's secularism provided a principle to fight intra-religious oppressions. Nehru understood this. For him, secularism was not only a project of civic friendship among religious communities but also of opposition to religion-based caste and gender oppressions – an endeavour at the heart of our own socially-driven freedom and equality-oriented reform movements in the 19th century. For the moment, the state-driven political project of secularism and its legal constitutional form appear to have taken a hit. But precisely this 'setback' can be turned into an opportunity to revitalise the social project of secularism. Since the Indian state has failed to support victims of oppressions sanctioned by religion, a peaceful and democratic secularism from below provides a vantage point from which to carry out a much-needed internal critique and reform of our own respective religions, to enable their compatibility with constitutional values of equality, liberty and justice. A collective push from young men and women untainted by the politics and ideological straitjacketing of the recent past may help strengthen the social struggle of emancipation from intra-religious injustices. Those who most benefit from upholding these constitutional values, the oppressed minorities, Dalits, women, citizens sick to death with zealotry or crass commercialisation of their faiths must together renew this project.

Inter-community relations

I am not suggesting that we must hereby ignore inter-religious issues. But having itself produced disharmony, it is surely beyond the capacity of the current state to restore communal harmony. But distance, freedom from mutual obsession, give communities breathing space. Each can now explore resources within to construct new ways of living together. The issue here is not simple retrieval of older, failed modes of religious toleration. The political project of secularism arose precisely because religious toleration no longer worked. Needed today are new forms of socio-religious reciprocity, crucial for the business of everyday life and novel ways of reducing the political alienation of citizens, a democratic deficit whose ramifications go beyond the ambit of secularism.

If a critique of religion is to come at least partly from within, then its idiom must also draw from local religiosities and the multiple languages in which they find expression. A critique purely from outside, one which is not partly immanent. will not work. Nor can popular-democratic struggles be taken over by middle-class vanguardism. However, such struggles too need support from intellectuals. But to be effective, these intellectuals should already have learnt from a wide variety of cultural traditions, both natal and those outside their immediate ambit. Only then will their voice carry weight, and be heard.

Rajeev Bhargava is Professor, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi

ABSTRACT

Independent central banks

How prioritising inflation comes at the cost of resolving economic crises

PRASHANTH PERUMAL

"The Economic Consequences of Banking Crises: The Role of Central Banks and Optimal Independence," Daniel Hansen, May 2022, American Political Science Review, Volume 116, Issue 2, pp. 453 - 469

The independence of central banks from the control of governments has been seen as extremely crucial to achieve economic growth and stability. Economists strongly believe that people in government usually try to influence officials in the central bank to adopt easy monetary policy that is inimical to economic growth in the long-run. After all, easy monetary policy help governments to borrow money at low interest rates to fund populist spending and also helps in the easier availability of credit which many believe to be important for economic growth. Both these together can lead to a rapid rise in prices that can in turn lead to a loss of confidence and severely undermine economic growth.

Predefined inflation mandate

Moreover, an independent central bank that focuses primarily on keeping inflation within a predefined range will automatically keep other crises in check, it is believed. In short, the predominant view among economists today is that an independent central bank with an inflation mandate can promote economic growth by keeping inflation and banking crises in check at the same time.

"The Economic Consequences of Banking Crises: The Role of Central Banks and Optimal Independence" by economist Daniel Hansen of Carnegie Mellon University disagrees with the current mainstream view on the advantages of independent central banks. Hansen argues that the benefits that independent central banks claim to offer in terms of controlling inflation can actually come at the cost of underwhelming response to major crises. This, in turn, can lead to prolonged unemployment and other economic costs that can be avoided if central banks did not focus so much on controlling price inflation. In particular, Hansen notes that during times of crisis such as the 2008 financial crisis, the response of central banks such as the Federal Reserve was focused on keeping price inflation in check rather than on resolving the crisis.

Such myopic focus on price inflation, he argues, turned focus away from the urgent need to bail out the financial system by easing liquidity and led to unemployment, economic contraction and other negative effects. This, according to Hansen, resulted in economic costs that far outweighed the benefits of keeping price rise in check. Apparently, there can also be severe political consequences to central bank independence as tough economic conditions could lead to political turmoil. Economic contraction and high unemployment caused by central bank independence can also lead to populist backlash that further undermines economic growth, he argues. Many have argued that the rising populism in America led to the trade war between the U.S. and China.

More importantly, Hansen believes that an actual inflation mandate is not necessarily required to achieve the goal of central bank independence. He argues that central bank independence can be achieved simply through laws that prohibit the politically-motivated appointment/dismissal of central bank officials. If so, there is no need to create rules that tie the hands of central bank officials to maintain price inflation within a predefined range.

Critics of Hansen are likely to argue that in the absence of an explicit inflation mandate central banks may be prone to expanding money supply at a far more aggressive pace. This, in turn, could lead to business cycles marked by more severe economic contractions. Some may even argue that the idea of central bank independence itself is largely a myth as in many cases central bank officials are appointed by political authorities. Even in cases where central bank officials enjoy total independence from the executive wing of government, there is no reasonable guarantee that they will act with the best interests of the larger economy in mind. Central bank officials may well collude with politicians in return for various kinds of benefits. If it be the case, a predefined inflation mandate may offer at least some kind of protection from discretionary monetary policy actions.

THE DAILY QUIZ

One of the world's most popular sport's premium event — the NBA finals is underway. Here's a question on NBA champions and players who won championships

1 Which NBA player who won his seven championships with the Houston Rockets, Los Angeles Lakers and San Antonio Spurs in the 1990s and 2000s is the one with the highest number of championships for someone who wasn't part of the Boston Celtics dynasty that dominated the 1950s and 60s.

2 Only two NBA players have won the Olympics Gold Medal, the Euroleague and the NBA championship. One of them was Bill Bradley. Name the other player.

3 Bill Russell, the Boston Celtics center, won 11 NBA championships, the highest for any player ever. What was special about the 1968 and 1969 championship wins, though, for him? Hint: Only one other NBA player (and only on one occasion) managed to do what he did in those two years.

4 John Salley held the record of having won NBA championships across three decades — with Detroit Pistons in 1989, 1990, Chicago Bulls (1996) and Lakers in 2000. Who is the only other person to match this record when he won a championship in 2014?

5 Name the only player to have won the NBA finals MVP despite being on the losing team.

◄ This Golden State Warriors stalwart is the only active player for the team to have won the NBA finals MVP (GSW won three championships in the 2010s). Identify him.

Compiled by: Srinivasan Ramani

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The commonwealth country which proposed the idea of a World Ocean Day at the 1992 Earth Summit. **Ans: Canada**
2. The percentage of the earth's surface covered by oceans and the percentage of the world's water found in the ocean. **Ans: About 71% and 97% respectively**
3. The scientific writer who said "How inappropriate to call this planet 'Earth' when it is clearly 'Ocean'". **Ans: Arthur C. Clarke**
4. The five oceans. **Ans: Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, and Southern**
5. The world's largest inland sea. **Ans: Caspian Sea**
6. The saltiest sea, of all the seas, that connects to the ocean. **Ans: Red Sea**
7. The term used for the portion of an ocean between the depths of 2,000m and 6,000m. **Ans: Abyssal Zone or realm**
8. The famous explorer who gave the largest ocean its name because its waters appeared peaceful and placid. **Ans: Ferdinand Magellan**
Visual: This sea was once the world's fourth-largest inland water body but in the last 70 years has shrunk to a tiny fraction of its size. **Ans: Aral Sea**

Early Birds: Geetika Kapoor| Aryan Kumar| Aditi Chandel| Trupti Tiwari| Sujit Manna

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Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (June 9, Thursday), the following explainers are available:

- What is the situation with global food trade following the Russian invasion of Ukraine? Stanly Johny explains
https://bit.ly/foodru
- Prashant Perumal reviews a new research paper that shows how central banks' prioritising of inflation comes at the cost of resolving economic crises
https://bit.ly/abscent

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Podcast

- Decoding CUET: Will it level the playing field or worsen exclusion? | In Focus podcast
https://bit.ly/39cZwV4

Explainer

Spain's 'only yes is yes' Bill to counter all forms of sexual violence
https://bit.ly/3xh6kJ9

Video

What are India's gun laws?
https://bit.ly/3MzJCBI

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Surge in cases in Bengaluru is 'concerning', says TAC

'Number of hospitalisations and deaths are low as of now'

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

COVID scenario in Bengaluru since May 23

Date	Cases	Tests	TPR
May 23	100	10,305	0.97%
May 25	197	13,973	1.41%
May 29	232	12,930	1.79%
May 31	178	14,546	1.22%
June 2	276	13,283	2.08%
June 5	291	14,279	2.04%
June 8	358	15,623	2.01%

With 95% of the daily COVID-19 caseload in Karnataka being reported from Bengaluru, the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has said that although the situation is not "alarming" as of now, it is "concerning." This, mainly because Karnataka has always not been far behind surges that have occurred in Kerala and Maharashtra during the last three waves.

At its meeting on Monday, the TAC took note of the Centre's letter dated June 3 to some States including Karnataka where cases are on the rise. The Centre has said that the surging cases in Bengaluru Urban requires focused intervention from State administration. The Centre has asked Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Karnataka to be vigilant and take pre-emptive action.

The Centre's letter stated that in Karnataka, between the weeks ending on May 27, 2022 and June 3, 2022, the number of new cases has increased from 15,708 to 21,055. Also for the same period the Test Positivity Rate (TPR) increased from 0.8% to 1.1%. The cases have further gone up since then.

Monitoring at borders

TAC chairman M.K. Sudarshan told *The Hindu* that the situation in the border areas of Maharashtra and Kerala should be daily monitored for compliance to COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) especially compulsory face masking both by inter-State arrivals and local population.

"If the surge continues in the coming days then further measures of surveillance like checking for symptomatics, vaccination certificates, and testing should be introduced," he said.

"Overall, as of now the situation is fluctuating and not alarming. The number of hospitalisations and deaths are low as of now. The daily hospitalisations should be monitored as an indicator of progress of the pandemic. We have to be watchful as according to the predictions by the team from IIT, Kanpur the fourth wave is going to begin from June 22," Dr. Sudarshan said.

No new variant

Health Commissioner Randeep D. said the results of genomic surveillance show that presently the Omicron BA.2 variant continues to be the dominant Variant of Concern (VoC) in Karnataka."No new VoC or Variant of Interest (VoI) has been detected till date that is capable of triggering a new wave. With some leads from the ongoing sewage surveillance, we are now awaiting the results of the recent batch of samples sent for genome sequencing to know what is driving this surge," he said.

The Commissioner said that the clinical preparedness of hospitals will be reviewed, mainly in Bengaluru where cases are rising.

"If the daily cases exceed the threshold of 500-600, we will consider setting aside dedicated beds for COVID in government hospitals. The BBMP is already getting many calls enquiring about hospitalisation facilities for positive patients," Mr. Randeep said.

ILI/SARI survey

Attributing the rise in cases to increased movement and disregard for COVID appropriate behaviour by people, K.V. Trilok Chandra, BBMP Special Commissioner (Health), said the palike is intensifying surveillance.

"From Thursday, our health teams will visit door-to-door and private clinics to identify ILI/SARI patients and others with symptoms. Those identified will be tested and isolated as per protocols if positive. One team will be deployed for each ward," he said, adding that the palike will increase testing from the current 16,000 done daily to 20,000.

Genome sequencing at Victoria Hospital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has recommended that samples for genome sequencing should be sent to the laboratory in the department of Microbiology State-run Victoria Hospital that is affiliated to the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI).

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said this lab can process about 50 samples, whose cycle threshold (CT) value is less than 25, at a time. To expedite the genomic processing, henceforth eligible samples will be sent to this lab BMCRI, he said.

The TAC has recommended that the State should immediately provide laboratory personnel to BMCRI to commence genome testing.

Many Muslim students attending classes by removing hijab: MLA

Uppinangady college revokes suspension of six girls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

Most Muslim girl students at the Government First Grade College, Uppinangady in Dakshina Kannada district, where the row over wearing hijab in classrooms has resurfaced, are attending classes by removing the headscarf even as the college suspended a total of 31 Muslim girl students on the charge of defying the dress code, since over a week, according to Sanjeeva Matandoor, MLA, Puttur, and chairman of the College Development Committee. The college suspended 24 students on Monday and seven students last week.

He said that for revocation of the suspension, students had been told to give an undertaking in writing that they would abide by the college dress code.

The MLA said that there was no protests by the students in the college over the issue on Wednesday.

The MLA said that parents of some of the girls who had been suspended approached the college stating that their children would attend classes by removing the hijab but would not give an undertaking. The college had made it clear to them that they would be allowed to attend the classes only after giving an undertaking.

He said that of the about 700 total students in the college, 105 were Muslim, studying both graduate and postgraduate subjects. Of the Muslim students, except those who had been suspended the others were attending the classes by removing the headscarf.

He said that the college would suspend students who violated the dress code by defying the order of the Karnataka High Court and the subsequent decision taken by the committee.

Meanwhile, the college sources said that the college revoked the suspension of six girls, who had been suspended last week, after they gave an undertaking on Wednesday that they would abide by the dress code. Later, they were allowed to attend the classes. After the suspension of six girls, the college had suspended one more girl last week. Later, 24 students were suspended on Monday.

COVID-19: State reports 376 new cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Wednesday saw 376 new COVID-19 infections taking the total number of cases to 39,54,313. With this the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) touched 1.61% and the weekly TPR touched 1.64%. Of the new cases, 358 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone.

With zero deaths, the State's toll remained 40,066. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded.

As many as 231 persons were discharged on Wednesday.

Gang held for creating fake property papers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Vidyaranyapura police on Wednesday arrested a gang of five persons for allegedly creating fake property papers to sell to make money. Th accused have been identified as Renu Gopal, 49, and his associates, Gouramma, 48, Shankara, 44, M. Prakash, 50, and Shantharaju, 43.

According to the police, the racket came to light when, based on a cheating complaint from the site owner of a residential layout in Chikkabettahalli, the police tracked down Renu Gopal from Agrahara Dasarahalli, who acted as the middleman. Based on his information, the police arrested Prakash from West of Chord Road and an auto consultant by profession, who is the prime accused.

According to the police, Prakash used to engage Shantharaju and Shankara to identify vacant sites in and around the city and using the address, would get registered copies of the properties from the sub-registrar's office.

Using the copies, the accused would create fake documents and posing as owners of the site, lure buyers and sell them the sites at cheaper rates. The accused not only sold sites to people, but also submitted the documents to the court and the police to apply for bail, an officer said.

FROM PAGE 1

Lessons on State icons dropped

Ashwath Narayana, member of the the Baragur Ramachandrappa-headed Social Science textbook revision committee, told *The Hindu*, "All Bhakti and Sufi movement icons' major concern was social equality and social harmony. It is very unfortunate that the recent textbook revision committee has dropped our regional Bhakti and Sufi movements' great icons. For the betterment of our children, I request the government to re-introduce the regional icons in the lessons."

The textbook revision committee has apparently triggered one more controversy by describing Sufi saint Bababudan as worshipper of Dattatreya.

UVCE building dons a new look

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will inaugurate it today

TANIA ANNY
BENGALURU

The renovated University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering at K.R. Circle. • JAYANTH R.

An iconic landmark in the heart of the city, the century-old University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) at K.R. Circle on Thursday will don a new, improved look, while keeping its heritage values intact.

On Thursday, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will inaugurate the newly-built and renovated buildings. Works worth ₹200 crore have been taken up at the UVCE campus, including the renovation which, officials said, has been carried out while maintaining the historical beauty of the buildings. While the new hostel is being constructed at a cost of ₹22 crore and will accommodate more than 1,000 students in the future, it also has a two-storey dining hall. The main building features Greco-Roman architecture, soundproof classrooms, and a sprawling amphitheatre, which can accommodate 1,000 people.

Until a few years ago, many of the buildings were in a dilapidated condition. For strength and improvement of the structures, a triple-layer wall was built, which has made the building strong enough to last for another 100 years, university officials said.

The British-era architecture roofs are 25 ft high and the doors are 15 ft high, and the royal look of the building has been kept as before and coloured red, like most heritage buildings, they explained.

Due to its location, the increasing traffic was a bane. However, now classrooms have triple-layer windows. Welcoming the soundproofing feature, one of the final semester students said, "Before, it was very disturbing for us to be in class and during examinations as there was too much noise. Though we are in the last semester, we are happy that at least our juniors are not going to face those issues".

"Initially, during the construction work, we faced some issues. But at the end of the day, it is beneficial for students and the new look of the campus is fascinating. Also, the two-storey cafeteria is going to open soon, and we are hoping we will get more varieties and hygienic food too," said Sanaya, a student of the Computer Science Department.

There are two newly-built open-air theatres known as rock open-air theatres. The main door of the newly-set seminar hall resembles an ancient temple door and costs ₹2 lakh for a single door made with teak wood. An artificial fountain is also under construction in front of the main gate.

Venugopal K.R., Vice-Chancellor, BU and former principal of UVCE, said, "The building is renovated under the Public Works Department and most of the engineers who worked on it were from this university itself, and they tried hard to make this building more beautiful with its own heritage look. We are trying to get a seven-storey mechanical block which is already approved by the State Cabinet at a cost of ₹89 crore. All these will make it worth being an autonomous degree giving institution".

The college has a strong alumni association from all over India and abroad. An alumnus, Major General Neelakantappa (retd.) said, 'From the very beginning, we wanted our college to be an autonomous one. Earlier, we didn't have a proper canteen. From both inside and outside, a lot of development work has been done and the good thing is that the Government finally decided to go ahead to make the college autonomous".

Over 100-year legacy

- University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE) was established in 1917 by Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya
- Currently affiliated to Bangalore University, the college provides six engineering courses – Electronics and Communication, Electrical and Electronics, Mechanical, Computer Science, Information Science and Civil Engineering.
- Situated at K.R. Circle, spread over 10 acres; and on Jnana Bharathi campus, spread over 50 acres

SOURCE: UVCE

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JUN. 09	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:45
RISE 13:50	SET 01:29
FRIDAY, JUN. 10	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:45
RISE 14:42	SET 02:07
SATURDAY, JUN. 11	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:46
RISE 15:38	SET 02:49

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	25
Mysuru	31	21
Bengaluru	31	21

Bengaluru Today
31°C A dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be little warm but humid. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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There are many who could not complete degree due to reasons beyond their control. All these people have been cursing their luck and have remained either unemployed or under employed. Some, by sheer hard work and determination have found jobs, but are still staring at a not-so-bright future due to lack of graduate /postgraduate qualifications. In the present competitive environment, graduate and postgraduate qualifications are a must for career progress.

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Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. RAREMG/1978/46945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X • Vol. 53 • No. 136

JD(S) moves legislators to hotel ahead of RS polls

Party fears poaching as Congress seeks 'conscience vote'

KARNATAKA BUREAU
BENGALURU

With less than 48 hours to go for Rajya Sabha elections in which the race for the fourth seat currently seems to be tight, the Janata Dal (Secular), which has been seeking the Congress' help to ensure victory of its candidate, moved its legislators to a star category hotel in Whitefield here on Wednesday fearing poaching as the Congress has been seeking 'conscience vote' for its second candidate.

JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy addressing the media in Bengaluru on Wednesday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While both the Congress and the JD(S) are dangling the secular tag at each other to seek support, leaders of both the parties continue to be in touch to overcome the logjam. JD(S) sources informed that the party leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy spoke to Congress general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala on Wednesday too reiterating his offer of exchanging the second preference vote to each other, and seeking the excess vote of the Congress.

Both parties have already issued whip to its legislators to vote for the party candidates.

"Most of the party legislators were already in Bengaluru to attend the naming ceremony of Nikhil Kumaraswamy's son on Wednesday. The party does not see threat from the Congress alone. With the BJP's third candidate short of votes, poaching cannot be ruled out," JD(S) sources said. "Some legislators are set to join the others at the hotel on Thursday since the legislative party meeting will be held there."

In the elections to be held on Friday, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and actor Jaggesh (BJP), and former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh (Congress) are expected to win comfortably with the numbers that both parties have in the Legislative Assembly. Lahar Singh Siroya (BJP), Mansoor Ali Khan (Congress), and D. Kupendra Reddy (JD-S) are in the fray for the fourth seat.

While the Congress Legislative Party meeting is also scheduled on Thursday, the BJP concluded its legislative party meeting on Wednesday to chalk out its strategies.

Meanwhile, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday said the JD(S), which had not held talks with the Congress while fielding its candidate, "is facing an issue of prestige" to support the Congress. Reacting to an offer made by Mr. Kumaraswamy to exchange the second preference votes, he said: "Despite several differences in the past, the State Congress supported the JD(S) to keep secular principles in politics. Now, there was no necessity of repeating the past incidents. Mr. Surjewala decided to field the party's second candidate. Let the JD(S) support the Congress candidate this time."

The Congress leader said Mr. Kumaraswamy can speak any issues with regard to politics. Being a president of the State Congress, he would speak only after consultation with party leaders. "I cannot share my personal opinions like the JD(S) leader," Mr. Shivakumar said.

CM refers to political upheavals in previous polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Referring to the political upheavals in the earlier Rajya Sabha polls, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said that it was difficult to predict the course of the elections, but exuded confidence that all BJP candidates will win.

His remarks, coming amidst fears of poaching and cross voting, followed the BJP Legislative Party meeting where election strategy was discussed. "In the current political scenario, if voting takes place as it should be, with the 32 additional votes, and second preferential votes, our candidate Lehar Singh will get elected." He, however, said: "Whenever Rajya Sabha polls have taken place, there have been ups and downs in politics. I have seen it in the last election and the election before also. So it is difficult to say that election will happen in a particular way. In several instances, things have changed during the course of voting. So wait till then."

The BJP issued whip to its legislators while allocation of votes to its candidates will be made on the eve of election. A team comprising Ministers R. Ashok, B.C. Nagesh, and V. Sunil Kumar has been tasked to ensure proper voting. Sources said the party will hold a mock election drill to prevent votes turning invalid.

'CWMA within its right to discuss Mekedatu project'

The Cauvery flows through a narrow gorge at Mekedatu near Kanakapura in Ramanagaram district. •K. MURALI KUMAR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that Karnataka will file a suitable reply to the Tamil Nadu Government's plea to the Supreme Court seeking restraint on discussion on Mekedatu project by Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA).

Speaking to media persons here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said the Tamil Nadu Government has filed a miscellaneous application and accordingly the Supreme Court has to issue a notice to Karnataka. "We will file a suitable reply promptly," said Mr. Bommai.

He said the CWMA was constituted following the directives of the apex court and the authority has the powers not only to ascertain if the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award was being implemented, but also to assess a project or issue clearance for it. Tamil Nadu moved the apex court on Tuesday seeking directions to the CWMA restraining any discussion on Karnataka's Detailed Project Report (DPR) on the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project at its meeting scheduled later this month.

This followed reports that the CWMA had secured a favourable legal opinion from the Union Law Ministry on taking up the Mekedatu project for discussion. Tamil Nadu has consistently opposed any deliberation on the project while Karnataka has been pressing for it as CWMA's acceptance was a prerequisite if the DPR was to be considered by the Advisory Committee of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Mr. Bommai is in the city to take part in various programmes besides calling on Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swami of Avadhootha Datta Peetha, who turned 80 recently. On the appointment of Lokayukta to Karnataka, Mr. Bommai said the process was in the final stages. However, he did not specify a timeline on when the appointment would be made. The post has been vacant since January 27 when Justice P. Vishwanath Shetty completed his tenure.

College removes portraits put up without permission

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

The University College, a constituent college of Mangalore University, in the city has removed portraits of V.D. Savarkar and Bharat Mata that were found mounted on the wall above the blackboard in a classroom two days ago without any permission from the college.

Some students had mounted the two portraits above the blackboard on Monday evening. It came to light after a video clip showing them viral in social media and after some students brought the matter to the notice of the principal. Anasuya Rai, college principal, said the college removed the portraits as they had been mounted without any permission. The students were warned and they apologised later in writing for violating the discipline.

Meanwhile, in a press release on Wednesday referring to the matter, Ismail B., general secretary, Dakshina Kannada Youth Congress, said there was a need to find out who was provocating the college students to indulge in such acts. Action should be taken against such persons and the students who indulged in such acts.

Karnataka High Court ruling on cross-examination of accused in POCSO cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The mandate in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 that the special courts should ensure that the child is not called repeatedly to testify in the court "would not mean that the accused can be deprived of his right to cross-examination in a trial, particularly when the offence is punishable beyond 10 years," the High Court of Karnataka said.

The court also observed that once the victim crosses 18 years, the rigor of Section 33(5) of the POCSO Act gets diluted, as it is the child-victim, defined to mean a person below 18 years of age, who should not be called for cross-examination or re-examination repeatedly.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while allowing the plea made on behalf of a 23-year-old accused man to recall the child victim for cross-examination in a peculiar situation after the victim's father, in his cross-examination before the special court had said that the accused did not commit sexual act on his daughter.

The accused is none other than the son of the elder sister of the victim's father where as the complaint was lodged by the victim's mother. The victim had crossed 18 years of age when the application for recalling her for cross examination was filed.

"A reading of Section 33(5) of the POCSO Act would clearly indicate the intention behind such enactment that in genuine cases the child-victim is not harassed... The mandatory nature to recall the witness for cross-examination, if the evidence appears to be essential, is always necessary for a just decision in a case, except in cases where repeated applications under Section 311 of the CrPC are filed on frivolous reasons," the court observed.

On noticing that the victim in the present case has already crossed 18 years, the court said that "on the child attaining 18 years of age, the rigor under Section 33(5) of the Act gets diluted and sequentially, will not become a bar for seeking further cross-examination of the victim under Section 311 of the Code of Criminal Procedure."

"It is more so in cases where the accused is alleged to have committed offences punishable under the Act as there is presumption under Section 29 of the Act against the accused. To bring in evidence contrary to the presumption is a heavy burden cast upon the accused for offences punishable under the Act," the court said, while allowing plea for recalling of the victim for cross-examination again.

The trial court had rejected the plea for recalling the victim stating that cross-examination was completed long ago.

Birth anniversary of Kayyara Kinhanna Rai

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Karnataka Border Area Development Authority on Wednesday celebrated the 107th birth anniversary of writer Kayyara Kinhanna Rai. Chairman C. said Rai fought for inclusion of Kasaragod in Karnataka during reorganisation of States on linguistic basis. KBADA established the 'Gadinada Chetana award' in his name and gave the inaugural award to B. Purushotam from Kasaragod.

Research initiative on tribal health launched

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

A five-year-long research initiative on tribal health was launched in Chamarajanagar district on Wednesday.

The first-of-its-kind initiative called Centre for Training, Research and Innovation on Tribal Health has been launched by the Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru, along with JSS Medical College in Mysuru, and Indian Institute of Public Health in Bengaluru, to conduct research, innovation and training on genetic diseases and hemoglobinopathies among the tribals.

Deputy Commissioner of Chamarajanagar Charulatha Somal, who inaugurated the project on Wednesday, said that concern over the health of tribal communities continues despite the government's programmes to eradicate malnutrition among them. Hoping that that new project will benefit the tribal communities of Chamarajanagar and the rest of the State, Ms. Somal assured the support of the district administration.

INSTITUTE ON MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION (IMAGE)
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA)
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No. 2569/IMAGE, Dated: 08.06.2022

Addendum & Corrigendum on Pre-bid Queries

With reference to RFP Notice No.2333 dt.26.05.2022, for Selection of Agency for Engagement of Extension Functionaries at Blocks & Districts and setting up of PMU in IMAGE under Extension Reforms (ATMA) Scheme

The details of Addendum & Corrigendum relating to the queries of the interested bidders have been discussed in the Pre-bid meeting held on **dt.06.06.2022** and necessary changes made in the RFP documents can be downloaded from the website **www.agri.odisha.gov.in / www.odisha.gov.in** from **dt.08.06.2022**.

Other Terms & Conditions as mentioned in the RFP documents are remain unchanged.

DIRECTOR, IMAGE

CAD-752/

CIPR-01406/110008/2223

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

IN MEMORIAM

56 NDA COURSE

Passed out from National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Pune on 9th June 1979.

The Iconic Course which produced Chiefs for the three Services at the same time.

IN MEMORIAM

In fond and everlasting memory of our dear Departed Coursemates

Alpha
Wg Cdr A Gode, Wg Cdr DK Shukla, Capt YV Prasad

Bravo
Cmde J Moses, Sqn Ldr M Nagendra, Lt AK Raghava, Capt KA Ramana, Lt Col SS Soin, Flt Cdt AS Malhotra, Flt Lt N Sridhar, 2nd Lt SK Chawla, Wg Cdr AM Hameed

Charlie
Flt Lt CM Shivkumar, Lt Col H Pahwa, Flt Lt AG Narahari, Col SN Jha

Delta
Wg Cdr C Vinodkumar, Lt (IN) SG Pynumootil, Capt (IN) P Baokar, Capt Gurpreet Singh, Col Jaswinder Singh Khaira*

Echo
Cmde DS Chhillar, Col B Yadav, Lt SK Mahakal, Lt J Rajkhowa, Col S Maira, RAdm SS Jamwal, Fg Offr S Kaul, Maj KV Thomas

Fox
Col NK Jha, Gp Capt KR Rathindranath, Maj CM Vishwanathan

Golf
Lt Col SK Rathore , Fg Offr PB Madhavan, Maj J Pandian, Col AV Dhuri, Maj SK Agnihotri

Hunter
Maj A Sahore, Brig S Gracias, Maj Manohar Singh, Maj SR Nayak

Juliet
Sqn Ldr UK Baweja, Flt Lt RK Singh, Flt Cdt AM Prasad, Capt A Pradhan, Capt N Gorti, Capt MK Singh, Col S Jakhar

Kilo
Cmde SP Yadav, Col MB Ravindranath, Maj A Pradhan, Sub Lt Mosaati SF, Maj Gen Sarabjeet Singh

Lima
Col RK Popli, Flt Lt SK Bhukar

*Demise after 9th June 2021

Forever missed with love by
Col David Devasahayam and
All Coursemates of the
56 NDA Course

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,BELAGAVI DISTRICT, BELAGAVI
Telephone no:0831-2407279 E-Mail:dudc_bgm@yahoo.co.in

No: BGM/DUDC/5/CR-25/2021-22 Dated:07-06-2022

Tender Notification

The Deputy Commissioner, Belagavi District, Belagavi invites tender in two cover system using KW-4 Documents for Belagavi District Chief Minister Amrut Nagarothana (Municipality) Phase-4 Project works as detailed below:- (Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No	Description of works	Amount Put to Tender (Excluding GST)	Earnest Money Deposit
1	Improvement of Road Works in Town Municipal Council Athani limits.(Tender No.DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT132597)	289.68	4.35
2	Improvement of Drain Works in Town Municipal Council Athani limits.(Tender No.DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT132551)	170.83	2.56
3	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Municipal Council Bailhongal limits. (Tender No. DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT 132204)	217.84	3.27
4	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Municipal Council Harugeri limits. (Tender No. DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT 132228)	345.81	5.19
5	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Municipal Council Hukkeri limits. (Tender No.DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT 132246)	276.52	4.15
6	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Municipal Council Kudachi limits. (Tender No.DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT 132229)	300.72	4.51
7	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Municipal Council Mudalgi limits. (Tender No.DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT 132248)	361.73	5.43
8	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Municipal Council Mugalkhod limits.(Tender No.DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT 132230)	161.95	2.43
9	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Municipal Council Munavalli limits. (Tender No. DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT 132207)	398.08	5.97
10	Improvement of Road Works in Town Municipal Council Ramdurg limits. (Tender No.DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT132224)	328.89	4.93
11	Construction of Drain Works in Town Municipal Council Ramdurg limits. (Tender No.DMA/2022-23/RD/ WORK_INDENT132553)	152.72	2.29
12	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Municipal Council Sankeshwar limits. (Tender No.DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT132223)	337.46	5.06
13	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Municipal Council Saundatti-Yallamma limits. (Tender No. DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT132206)	411.44	6.17
14	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Panchayat Arabhavi limits. (Tender No. DM A/20 22-23/RD/WORK_INDENT 132250)	180.81	2.71
15	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Panchayat Chinchali limits.(Tender No. DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT132209)	193.16	2.90
16	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Panchayat Kabbur limits.(Tender No.DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT132252)	223.49	3.35
17	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Panchayat Raibag limits. (Tender No.DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT132255)	179.45	2.69
18	Improvement of Road and Drain Works in Town Panchayat Yaragatti limits. (Tender No. DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT132256)	168.07	2.52

Contractors can download and submit the tenders through e-Procurement portal at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:

1	Period of Construction	09 Months (Excluding Mansoon)
2	Last Date for submission of tenders	07-07-2022 up to 17.00 hrs.
3	Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids)	08-07-2022 at 17.01 hrs.

Postponement of calendar of events (if any) is only through e-Procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/-EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Distirct Urban Development Cell, Belagavi

IN BRIEF

A.P. BJP chief 'assaults' policemen in Konaseema

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

BJP State president Somu Veerraju on Wednesday allegedly physically assaulted two policemen, including a Sub-Inspector on duty, when his convoy was reportedly stopped from entering Konaseema district in Andhra Pradesh at Jonnada on the national highway due to "prevailing tension over proposed renaming of the district".

Jubilee Hills police get custody of rape accused

HYDERABAD

A local court in Hyderabad on Wednesday granted Jubilee Hills police custody of the lone major accused in the gangrape of a 17-year-old girl on May 28. Saaduddin Malik, the accused, who was arrested last week and remanded in judicial custody, will be in police custody for three days starting Thursday. The court earlier on Tuesday had reserved the verdict for Wednesday in response to the petition of the police. Also accused in the sexual assault are five children in conflict with law (CCL).

N.V. Ramana to attend NTR centenary on June 9

TIRUPATI

Chief Justice of India Justice N.V. Ramana will participate in the centenary celebrations of thespian turned politician N.T. Rama Rao near here on Thursday. Justice Ramana will formally garland the NTR statue at 11 a.m. and reach Sri Venkateswara University auditorium here to take part in the proceedings of the event jointly organised by NTR Centenary Festival Committee (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) and Nandanam Academy.

Swapna's charges set off row in Kerala

Police search her house, hustle away Sarith

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

On Wednesday, riveting political drama unfolded barely 24 hours after the diplomatic gold smuggling case suspect, Swapna Suresh, triggered a public scandal by accusing Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan of an egregious breach of ministerial code for personal profit.

She had alleged that Mr. Vijayan had clandestinely sought the UAE Consulate's covert help to smuggle out foreign currency and import brass vessels allegedly containing "contraband metal" via the mission's diplomatic channel to dodge customs inspection.

As the controversy rippled across Kerala's political landscape and triggered widespread belligerent street protests, detectives in plainclothes descended on Swapna's apartment in a high-rise at Palakkad. They whisked away her friend and co-accused P. Sarith to a nearby Vigilance facility.

P.S. Sarith, accused in the gold smuggling case, at the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau office. • K.K. MUSTAFAH

The police later claimed that Sarith had willingly accompanied officers investigating the LIFE Mission graft case. However, the duo alleged they were victims of a State-sponsored witch-hunt.

They said the officers were keen to find out who had prompted Swapna to speak out against Mr. Vijayan. (Swapna and Sarith are currently working for an organisation in Palakkad, which the DYFI has accused of being an RSS front.)

Jaleel files complaint

In Thiruvananthapuram, former Minister and Left Independent legislator K.T. Jaleel petitioned the police to investigate the "conspiracy" to malign Mr. Vijayan.

Mr. Jaleel alleged that a Congress-BJP axis had orchestrated the slander by rebroadcasting discredited allegations rejected by the electorate in the 2021 Assembly elections. He named BJP fellow-traveller P.C. George as a respondent in the complaint.

An apparently unperturbed Mr. Vijayan maintained that anti-Left forces had merely reused a blunted instrument from their timeworn political toolkit to defame a successful and popular administration.

The CPI, the CPI(M), the LDF and the Kerala Congress (M) weighed in with support for Mr. Vijayan. CPI State secretary Kanam Rajendran said the Congress and the BJP had re-employed a failed strategy to capture lost political ground. The media had magnified their falsehoods, he said.

'Moral decay'

CPI(M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan and LDF convener E.P. Jayarjan echoed a similar sentiment.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan, KPCC president K. Sudhakaran and BJP State president K. Surendran struck a starkly different position. The leaders said that Swapna's averments were emblematic of the moral decay in the CPI(M) and demanded a comprehensive inquiry into the new revelations.

HC stays sedition case against Aisha Sultana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Wednesday stayed for three months all further proceedings in the sedition case registered by the Kavaratti police against Lakshadweep-based filmmaker Aisha Sultana for her alleged remarks that the Central government had used bioweapon against the islanders.

Justice Ziyad Rahman A.A. passed the order on a petition filed by the filmmaker seeking to stay the proceedings in view of the Supreme Court order suspending all criminal trials and proceedings in cases registered under Section 124A (sedition) of the IPC.

The petitioner said she was absolutely innocent.

'UGC rule enhancing retirement age to 65 for teachers not binding on State varsities'

FROM THE COURT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The University Grant Commission's (UGC) 2018 regulation of enhancing the age of retirement for university teachers to 65 from 62 is not binding on the State government and the State universities, said the High Court of Karnataka.

Pointing out that the UGC, in its communications to the State universities on its 2018 regulations, has left to the wisdom of the State universities to fix the age of superannuation, the court observed that: "Whether it is prudent to retain old blood or to infuse fresh one is best left to the wisdom of the state executive and the universities."

A Division Bench comprising Justice Krishna S. Dixit and Justice P. Krishna Bhat passed the order while rejecting the pleas of Chidananda P. Mansur, who till recently served as Dean (Agri) in the College of Agriculture, Hubballi. The Bench also upheld findings by a judge, who had rejected claim for enhancement of retirement age to 65 by a few other teachers. Dr. Mansur, who was nearing retirement age of 62 years when the petition was filed, had sought a direction from the court to continue him in the service till the age of 65 by applying the UGC's 2018 regulation while claiming that it was mandatory for the State and its universities.

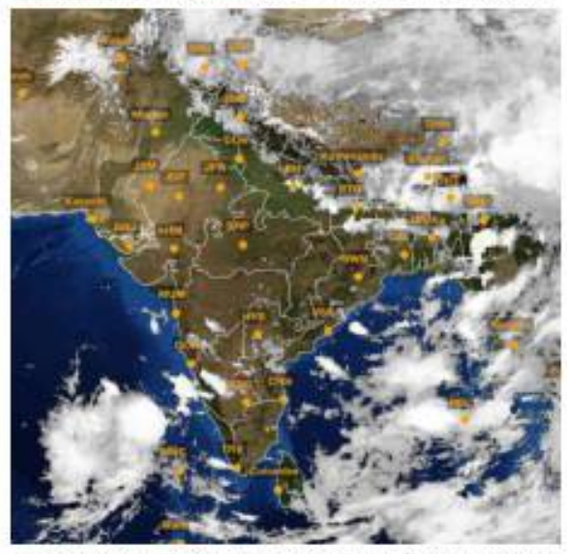
While accepting the contention on behalf of the State government and the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, that UGC's regulations are not obligatory on them, the Bench also said that "at what age teachers in universities/constituent college should retire is purely within the domain of the State executive, which bears the expenditures towards their salary, emoluments and terminal benefits."

Rejecting the petitioner's plea for ordering extension of his service till 65 years, the court said that fixation of age of retirement of public servants has a bearing on the State exchequer and the employment opportunities for others.

"We are told at the Bar that there are thousands of employees in various universities and in the constituent and affiliated colleges. If the prayer, as sought for, is granted, all these employees would continue in the office for an additional period of three years and eventually, there would be no vacancies for fresh appointments. This is not desirable," the Bench observed.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and West Bengal. Thunderstorm likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	32	36.1	24.7	Kozhikode	0.3	33.2	25.5
Ahmedabad	–	41.2	29.1	Kurnool	–	38.0	25.8
Aizawl	–	29.0	22.4	Lucknow	–	42.6	30.4
Allahabad	–	45.2	30.0	Madurai	–	39.2	24.8
Bengaluru	–	30.6	21.2	Mangaluru	7.2	30.2	23.4
Bhopal	–	42.8	31.0	Mumbai	–	34.9	29.4
Bhubaneswar	–	36.6	28.1	Mysuru	–	31.0	21.4
Chandigarh	–	44.5	29.3	New Delhi	–	44.0	31.2
Chennai	–	40.1	28.5	Patna	–	39.0	27.4
Coimbatore	–	34.0	23.0	Port Blair	18	28.9	23.8
Dehradun	–	40.3	26.4	Puducherry	–	36.2	25.4
Gangtok	15.9	20.2	17.5	Pune	–	36.8	25.1
Goa	8	33.0	25.3	Raipur	–	44.6	30.5
Guwahati	27	34.0	25.7	Ranchi	–	40.4	24.8
Hubballi	–	32.0	22.0	Shillong	0.4	24.2	18.2
Hyderabad	–	36.8	26.5	Shimla	–	33.2	24.7
Imphal	–	33.6	23.5	Srinagar	–	30.6	15.0
Jaipur	–	41.9	31.5	Thiruvananthapuram	0.7	32.6	24.9
Kochi	4	31.0	24.6	Tiruchi	–	37.1	26.0
Kohima	–	27.1	16.0	Vijayawada	–	44.5	31.4
Kolkata	–	36.2	28.1	Visakhapatnam	–	33.2	29.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	11	12	–	162	146	
Bengaluru	21	14	30	83	92	
Chennai	14	11	56	63	73	
Delhi	15	102	58	276	394	
Hyderabad	25	28	57	62	116	
Kolkata	15	13	19	83	101	
Lucknow	6	86	59	304	252	
Mumbai	9	2	19	277	409	
Pune	121	29	114	85	65	
Visakhapatnam	–	–	34	–	–	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hapur, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 421 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Davanagere, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general Public that, our client has lost/misplaced the below mentioned Original Documents pertaining to the survey numbers situated at **Gopasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District**. Our client has lodged the Police Complaint in concerned Police station. Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title & interest over the above said survey numbers or on below mentioned original documents may intimate the same in writing to the under signed along with documentary evidence in support of their claims **within 10 days** from the date of this publication, failing which, it will presumed that below mentioned original documents are lost and our client and his successors in interest or any other person/s claiming under him are free to deal with above said survey numbers as if no valid claims are subsisting against above said survey numbers.

It is hereby informed that, the General Public are restrained from transacting with the above said Survey numbers except our client and his successor-in-interest., If any person holding the below mentioned documents may kindly contact the undersigned at the earliest.

THE LIST OF THE LOST ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO GOPASANDRA VILLAGE, SARJAPURA HOBLI ANEKAL TALUK, BANGALORE URBAN DISTRICT.

Sy.No.12/1,12/2 and 12/3 (Old Sy.no.12), measuring to an extent of 2 Acre 06.08 Guntas, Sale deed dated 29-05-1974, executed by Sri. Venkata Subbyya Sri. Venkappayya, Sri. Narayana and Sri. Krishna Moorthy in favour of Neralur Nanja Reddy, with respect to Sy. No.12 measuring to an extent of 02 Acre 38 Guntas, vide Doc. No. 801/1974-75, Book I, Volume 1209, Pages 121-123, in the office of the Sub – Registrar Anekal.

Sale deed dated 29-05-1974, executed by Sri. Venkata Subbyya Sri. Venkappayya, Sri. Narayana and Sri. Krishna Moorthy in favour of R. Narayana Reddy, with respect to Sy. No.12 measuring to an extent of 01 Acre 19 Guntas, vide Doc. No. 802/1974-75, Book I, Volume 1208, Pages 163-165 in the office of the Sub – Registrar Anekal.

Dated this 07th day of June 2022, at Bangalore,

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS,
Advocates and Consultants, No. 428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main, 2nd Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560102, Phone: 080-49595965, Mobile: 9945688974, 9844002992.

Indian Overseas Bank

Regional Office: 3rd Floor, Lakshminarayanan Complex, 10/1, Palace Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru-560 052 Ph: 080-22950269

RELOCATION OF BRANCH

This is to inform that our **"VIDYARANAYAPURA"** Branch will be relocating from #507, Sri Sai Towers, HMT Layout, Vidyaranayapura, Bangalore - 560097 to new building and will commence functioning from **27.06.2022** in the following address.

New Address: No. 1125, 10th Main Corner, 6th Cross, 6th Block, HMT Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore - 560097.

Date : 08th June, 2022 **Sd/-**
Place : Bengaluru **Chief Regional Manager**

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)

CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tender through e-procurement portal mode are invited from the contractors/agencies who are reputed individuals/ Company and having past experience, for the following works at RTPS. **1) KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 12309 dated: 27.05.2022** High pressure water jet cleaning of condenser tubes in Unit - 1 to 8 for a period of one year. **EMD: Rs. 66,000/-. 2) KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 12312 dated: 27.05.2022** Dismantling and Erection of Alloy steel pipes of PRDS header of Unit-3. **EMD: Rs. 7,000/-, 3) KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 12336** Supply, service & re-conditioning of 4 Nos. of KG Khosla make - 2HA2QT model compressors of Unit - 1 to 3. **EMD: Rs. 48,500/-. 4) KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 12417** Chemical cleaning of Compressors HP/LP water jacket, Inter cooler, After cooler of Unit - 1 to 8. **EMD: Rs. 32,900/-.** Interested bidders may submit the bids through e-procurement portal **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** only. Last date for submission of completed bids (2 parts): **27.06.2022 at 16.00 Hrs.** Opening of Technical Bid (Part 1): **29.06.2022 at 11.00 Hrs.** and Financial Bid (Part 2): **30.06.2022 at 11.30 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the **Executive Engineer (Turbine Maintenance-1)**, KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar - 584 170, Raichur Dist. Mobile: 94486 96551.

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH

(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433/216/217 TELE FAX:080-26534477
e-mail: director@jayadevacardiology.com/pstodirectorsjicr@gmail.com/pe.sjicrblr@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for following items in two bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka.

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No. & Date	Name of the Item
1	SJICR/TS/27/2022-23 Dt. 08.06.2022	Supply of Medical Equipment: 1) ECG machine-10 Nos. 2) Computed Radiography system with printer-1 set and portable x-ray machine-02 Nos.
2	SJICR/TS/28/2022-23 Dt. 08.06.2022	Providing RIS (Radiology Information System) & PACS system with networking (Picture Archival Communication System) for X-ray, ECHO, TMT, CT, MRI images & others with hardware for SJICR, BG Road, Bengaluru.

1. The tenderers can download the documents from **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **09.06.2022** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **24.06.2022 up to 4:00 PM.**
2. Date of Pre-bid meeting: **16.06.2022 at 11:30 AM.**
3. Date of Technical Bid opening: **27.06.2022 at 4:00 PM.**
4. EMD: as mentioned in the tender document
5. For further details please visit our website: **www.jayadevacardiology.com**
6. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

Sd/-
Chief Administrative Officer.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka under taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1 H.R.B.H.L.C Division, Gorur Hassan District.-573120

Tender Postponment Date: 08.05.2022

Ref:1. Tender Notification No. 06/2022-23 Dated: 16.05.2022 2)Tender Indefinite Postponment Date: 23.05.2022 Tender Postponment to the Tender Notification No. 06/2022-23 Dated: 16.05.2022 is issued herewith. The other conditions remains are unaltered. Tender Notification No: No. 06/2022-23 Dated: 16.05.2022 As Notified in reference (2) Last date for receipt of tender:Indefinite Postponment. As per Postponement Last date for receipt of tender: from 10.06.2022 time: 11.30 to 17.06.2022 time: 17.00 Opening of tender: 18.06.2022 time:17.00

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, No.1 HRBHLC Division, Gorur

ಪ್ರಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಸಂ/ಕಾವೇನಿನಿ/ಹೆಚ್ಆರ್ಬಿ/ಎಸ್ಇಇ1/166/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the public that we have been engaged by our client to investigate the title and ownership of M/s Green Investments having its office at No. 51/2, 3rd Floor, Promenade Road, Frazer Town, Bangalore - 560005, to the converted land described in the Schedule below and referred to as the **"Schedule Property"**.

If any person has any claims right, title, interest, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same shall be brought to the notice of the undersigned with supporting documents within fourteen (14) days from the date of this notice. If such claims are not made within the stipulated time period, then, such claim shall be considered to have been waived and/or given up and our client shall be entitled to complete the transactions contemplated in respect of the Schedule Property. Objections and/or claims received after the expiry of the stipulated time period shall neither be entertained nor be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE

Description of the Schedule Property

All that piece and parcel of the converted land bearing Katha No. 1153/41/1/27 (Corporation Ward No. 83) and part of Municipal No. 27 admeasuring 31,036.5 square feet (equivalent to 28½ Guntas) carved out of portion of Survey No. 41/1, situated at Pattandur Agrahara Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District (**"Property"**) and bounded as follows:

East by : Survey No. 42;
West by : Whitefield Main Road;
North by : Remaining portion of Survey No. 41/1 and 20ft Road; and
South by : Remaining portion of Survey No. 41/1.

Mr. Gerald Manoharan
Partner, J. S. A.
Level 3, Prestige Obelisk 3 Kasturba Road,
Bengaluru-560001, Ph: 080 43503600, 080 43503610
E-mail – gerald@jsalaw.com

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 08-06-2022

Government of Karnataka
(URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT)

District Urban Development Cell, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar

Email : dudcchamarajanagar@gmail.com Ph. No : 08226-223761

No. DUDC/CMSMTDP-4/CR/218/2021-22 **Date : 04-06-2022**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement portal only)

The Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar invites e-procurement full time tender from eligible contractors under KW-4 document under Chief Minister's Amruth Nagarothana Phase-4 Project. Work details as follows. 1) Name of Work : Construction of Roads, Drains & development of parks in Yelandur TP limits (DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT132036) Estimate Cost : 145.51 Lakhs, EMD Amount : 2.20 lakhs Period of Completion : 06 Months. 2) Name of work : Construction of Roads & Drains in Hanur TP limits (DMA/2022-23/RD/WORK_INDENT132038) Estimate Cost : 281.18 Lakhs, EMD Amount : 4.22 lakhs, Period of Completion : 09 Months. Last date for submission of bids for both the tenders is : 06.07.2022 5.00 P.M. Pre bid Meeting Venue & date : 21.06.2022 at 11.00 A.M. (Room No. 127, DUDC, DC Office, Chamarajanagar), Date of opening of tenders technical bids: 07.07.2022 at 5.00 P.M. & Date of opening of Financial bids : Informed to technically qualified Contractors, Interested contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from e-procurement platform (www.erpoc.karnataka.gov.in). Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.erpoc.karnataka.gov.in.** EMD and tender processing fees shall also be paid electronically For further details go through tender document or contact Office of the Project Director, District Urban Development Cell, DC Office, Chamarajanagar during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR : CHANAGAR:106:2022-23 District Urban Development Cell, Chamarajanagar

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾರ್ಯಂಪೋವಿಚಿ:ವಿಇ-2:ಟೆಂಡರ್-15:2022-23/757 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.06.2022

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಡ್ಡಾದಿಡ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಥಾಯಿಆದೇಶ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಾದ್ಯಂತ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಇವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೋಡ್‌ಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.Karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ:- ಇ- ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ- ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ:- ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 5054-03-337-0-17-154 ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ:- (1) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ a) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ-ಹುಣಗಲ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ-47ರ ಕಿ.ಮೀ 251.60 ರಿಂದ 252.40 (ಕೆರೆ ಹತ್ತಿರ) ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ) (ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವಿತ ಕಿ.ಮೀ. 251.80 ರಿಂದ 251.98 ವರೆಗೆ) b) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಎಸ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಪಿಯಿಂದ ಚಿಕ್ಕಗೊಂ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಗಡಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ವಯಾ ಗಂಗಸಮುದ್ರ, ರಾಮಗಿರಿ, ಕಾಳಕ್ಕೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ 2.30 ರಿಂದ 3.40, 5.00 ರಿಂದ 6.95 ಮತ್ತು ಕಿ.ಮೀ 8.00 ರಿಂದ 8.90ರವರೆಗೆ ಆಯ್ದ ಭಾಗಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮರು ಡಾಂಬರೀಕರಣ (ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ) (ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವಿತ ಕಿ.ಮೀ. 8.10 ರಿಂದ 9.05 ರವರೆಗೆ) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):-120.00** (2) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಸ್.ಹೆಚ್-369ರ ರಸ್ತೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ವಿಭಜಕ ಮತ್ತು ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ದೀಪ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):-150.00**

ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:5054-04-337-0-01-154 ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳು-ಸುಧಾರಣೆ:- (3) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ a) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹೇಳಿಬಾಪ್ಪ-ಕೋಳಘಟ್ಟ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ 5.56 ರಿಂದ 7.80ರವರೆಗೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ) b) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಉಜ್ಜಿನಿಗನಹಳ್ಳಿ -ಅಮೃತಾಪುರ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ 4.00 ರಿಂದ 4.32ರವರೆಗೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ) c) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಮಾತೃಶ್ರೀ ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಗಡಿ ರಸ್ತೆಯ ಕಿ.ಮೀ 0.00 ರಿಂದ 1.60 ಮತ್ತು ಕಿ.ಮೀ 8.20 ರಿಂದ 9.30 ರವರೆಗೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ. (ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ) d) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕೋಡಾಪುರ-ಏಮಗೊಂಡ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ 0.00 ರಿಂದ 4.70ರವರೆಗೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ರಸ್ತೆ) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):-265.00** (4) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ವಿಧಾನ ಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ a) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕೆಂಗುಂಟೆ-ಕೊರಟಿಕೆರೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ 0.00 ರಿಂದ 2.20ರವರೆಗೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ. (ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ರಸ್ತೆ) b) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಗುಗಳೆಟ್ಟಿ ಮೀಗಳಕೊಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಎಸ್.ಹೆಚ್-47ರವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಿ.ಮೀ 0.00 ರಿಂದ 1.10ರವರೆಗೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ರಸ್ತೆ) c) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ರಾಮಘಟ್ಟ ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀಸಾಗರ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ 0.00 ರಿಂದ 1.20 ರವರೆಗೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ. d) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಶ್ರೀ ಮಾತೃಶ್ರೀ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ 5.338 ರಿಂದ 6.00ರವರೆಗೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ. (ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ) e) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ-13 ರಿಂದ ವಿಜಯಪುರ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಗುಂಡಿಮಡು ಮಾರುತಿ ನಗರ ರಸ್ತೆ ಕಿ.ಮೀ 0.00 ರಿಂದ 5.00 ರವರೆಗೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ (ವಯಾ ವಿಜಯಪುರ) (ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ರಸ್ತೆ) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):-430.00** **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ:-** (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಯು/ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 17-06-2022 ಸಮಯ 17-30 (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 18-06-2022 ಸಮಯ 16-00 (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 20-06-2022 ಸಮಯ 16-01 (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 22-06-2022 ಸಮಯ 11-00 ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 08194 222446) ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್.ಪಿ. ಕಂಪೆನಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ 080 25501216 ಮತ್ತು 080 25501227 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

DIPR/CTA/MCA/208/2022-23 **ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಡಿ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ.**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ವಿಜಯನಗರ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ
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NO. No.VIMS/SUP-TEND/01/2022-23, DATED:07.06.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from eligible Bidders for **supply of Medical Equipments, Instruments & Hospital Furniture under DMFT Fund to GDC & RI, VIMS, Ballari** through Two Tender System as per KTPP Act 1999 & Rules 2000 through e-procurement portal **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** of Government of Karnataka.

(1).Start date for download Tender Documents: **From 09.06.2022.** (2).Last date for submit Queries: **14.06.2022 up to 5.00 PM.** (3).Last date for submit Tender: **27.06.2022** up to **5.00 PM.** (4).Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid on: **28.06.2022 @ 05.15 PM.** (5).Approximate Cost of Tender is **Rs. 70.71 Lakhs**

Further, Two Tenders have been floated in GEM Portal **https://gem.gov.in** vide Bid No.**GEM/2022/B/2

Inflation's long shadow

The Reserve Bank of India is finally acting to rein in galloping prices

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has now joined battle by pitching the need to 'keep inflation and inflationary expectations under check' front and centre of its policy approach. Just over a month after the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided at a surprise 'off-cycle' meeting to raise interest rates for the first time in almost four years, the rate setting panel has followed up with a further 50 basis points increase in the policy repo rate. Simultaneously, the MPC has made it clear it no longer intends to 'remain accommodative'. It will instead stay focused on the withdrawal of the pandemic-triggered accommodation as it races to tame retail inflation and anchor it within the 2%-6% target band. In acknowledgment of the herculean task it faces, the MPC now projects retail inflation to average 6.7% over the entire fiscal year ending in March – a full one percentage point increase from the 5.7% it forecast in April. Price gains are now expected to accelerate at a 7.5% pace in the April-June quarter, a sizeable 120 basis points faster than previously estimated, before printing at 7.4% in Q2, a sharp 160 basis points quicker than April's projection of 5.8%. The headline CPI-based inflation is now seen stuck above the RBI's upper tolerance limit in Q3 as well, at 6.2%, before easing to 5.8% in the fourth quarter. The MPC has listed a slew of factors clouding the inflation outlook: the war in Ukraine and the consequent elevated commodity prices, the heat wave stunting *rabi* crop output, high edible oil prices, crude prices that continue to pose a pass-through risk to domestic pump prices of fuels, increases in electricity tariffs, and, crucially, manufacturing and services firms flagging input and output price pressures.

That inflation looms large over every other aspect of the outlook for the economy worldwide is also evident from the MPC's pointed reference to 'growing stagflation concerns' that are amplifying the volatility in global financial markets. While the RBI has made brave to retain its April forecast for GDP growth in the current fiscal at 7.2%, citing an ongoing recovery including in contact-intensive services and an expected boost to rural consumption from rain-spurred *kharif* sowing and output, a 37% 'below normal' start to the southwest monsoon serves as an early cautionary augury. And it is precisely the "headwinds from accelerating inflation" and the resultant 'erosion of purchasing power of consumers' that the World Bank cited on Tuesday when it cut its forecast for India's GDP growth for this year by 50 basis points to 7.5%. The only silver lining is the RBI's finding in a quick survey, post the May 21 excise duty cuts on petrol and diesel, that show urban households' three-months-ahead inflation expectations have moderated by 190 basis points. Governor Shaktikanta Das has cited this finding to underline that States too could do their bit to soften inflationary pressures by further reducing their value-added taxes on fuels.

Safe foods

States need help in developing food lab infrastructure and enhancing manpower

Food safety and consumer empowerment are areas in need of constant attention in India, where enforcement is often lax. But in this, Tamil Nadu deserves credit for finishing at the top among 17 large States for food safety; it was ranked third in the previous edition of the State Food Safety Index. That Tamil Nadu, with 82 marks, is ahead of Gujarat by 4.5 marks and Maharashtra by 12 marks, highlights its creditable showing. Developed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the Food Safety Index evaluates States and Union Territories on these parameters, apart from their size: human resources and institutional data; compliance; food testing - infrastructure and surveillance; training and capacity building, and consumer empowerment. Tamil Nadu has improved its standing in 'human resources and institutional data', and 'training and capacity building'. There has been incremental progress in 'compliance' (which measures overall coverage of food businesses in licensing and registration), and 'food testing' (which scrutinises availability of adequate testing infrastructure with trained manpower in the States/Union Territories for testing food samples). The State has performed marginally lower than what it did last year in 'consumer empowerment'. But barring Tamil Nadu, there is nothing for the other southern States to cheer about despite the region being more advanced than the rest of India in many socio-economic indicators. Kerala, which came second last time, is now at sixth spot; Karnataka has retained its ninth position; Telangana slipped from 10 to 15 and Andhra Pradesh dropped to the last slot from the penultimate slot in the previous edition when 20 States were covered, unlike the 17 now. Among Union Territories, Puducherry rose from seventh to sixth spot.

But in an area such as food safety, States alone cannot make a big difference without the support of the Central government. Liberal assistance should be provided to the States and Union Territories as far as laboratory infrastructure and improvement of manpower, both technical and non-technical, are concerned. The private sector should come forward in a big way to have staff trained at their cost and where such persons are used productively for the purpose. There are inspiring accounts of the participation of some information technology majors in getting surplus food distributed to the needy, of course with the help of non-governmental organisations, and this should serve as a lesson to those who are still hesitant to make their contribution. What every player in the field of food safety should realise is that each one has a critical role to play, and there has to be collective and well-coordinated action.

Vicious domestic politics, foreign policy shocks

The ready set of templates India has used to push back the West has been blunted in the West Asian backlash

HAPPYMON JACOB

The unprecedented diplomatic backlash against India just a few days ago over the derogatory remarks made by the now-suspended spokespersons of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) against Islam highlights the tenuous limits of a carefully calibrated and politically useful binary that the BJP-led government in New Delhi has been pursuing in conducting its relationship with the West Asian states: dismiss the growing anti-Muslim sentiments in the country as either a fringe or a 'domestic matter' while proactively improving India's relations with the Muslim-majority states. The backlash has clearly put the Government on the back foot, which is now struggling to contain the diplomatic fallout.

While none of the Muslim-majority states in West Asia can claim to teach India the virtues of religious tolerance or pluralism – going by the despicable standards they adopt in their own counties – for India, this is not just a lesson in religious tolerance and pluralism but one that should drive home the stark lesson that vicious domestic politics has foreign policy implications. More so, when bilateral relationships carefully built over decades by professional diplomats start getting undermined by communal politics and electoral calculations, hate speech can no longer be dismissed as "our internal matter"; it becomes a matter of national interest.

Larger binary

In fact, there is a larger binary that has been at the heart of the conduct of India's foreign policy in the recent past. So far, India has been able to fend off external criticism about shrinking democratic space and rising religious intolerance in the country while at the same time being a champion of those very global platforms rooted in democratic values - Quad (India, the United States, Japan and Australia) is an example; Summit of democracies is another. New Delhi has consistently dismissed, rather contemptuously, criticism from the U.S. and the West about India's internal issues using a politically smart blend of ripostes rooted in its post-colonial identity, and its right to stand up to western hypocrisy and their imperial urges. However, India's ability to manage its international normative identity while at the same time dismissing criticism against its own domestic failings will shrink, and the carefully calibrated binary will find fewer takers going forward, thanks to the current crisis.

After all, India has been called out not by the 'colonial', 'hypocritical' and 'imperial' West/U.S., but by the smaller regional states which do not come with any of these labels. New Delhi, in other words, has a ready set of templates to push back the U.S./the West, but none of those templates can help it fend off the criticism from the smaller but influential regional powers in West Asia.

When extremism boils over

An even larger question is whether domestic extremism can be fanned but kept contained without external consequences. Historically, India has had its run-ins and experiences with extremism, and sometimes has even fanned it. Dealing with Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, which has been one of the major preoccupations of the Indian state, and the deadly fallout of initially supporting the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, have taught India an important lesson: hobnobbing with extremism is

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counterproductive.

Despite this valuable lesson, there is an increasing number of 'fringe' but extremist groups in India today that are determined to make life difficult for Indian Muslims, and who are hardly taken to task by the BJP-led government. The reason why the international community has been more or less tolerant of such home-grown extremist elements in India is because they are, for all practical purposes, domestically focused and contained therein.

That is also in some ways an important difference between, say, the extremist organisations in Pakistan and those in India: while Pakistan's home-grown extremism spilled over into other countries as terrorist violence with active state sponsorship, in India, home-grown extremism and intolerance has neither manifested itself as terrorism nor spilled over national borders.

More so, most manifestations of extremism in India have never received any state patronage (despite the occasional tolerance by the ruling party), and the various domestic checks and balances have been able to blunt its sharpness. But when extremism or communalism is increasingly viewed as being tolerated by the ruling party, and it boils over into spaces outside the borders, even if without any material manifestations, it is bound to have foreign policy consequences.

Take the example of global reactions to India's policies in Kashmir, especially in 2019, or how certain right-wing Hindutva organisations have been going after Indian Muslims. While there were some criticisms of India's Kashmir policy especially from the Islamic countries, even they had ignored these issues for most practical purposes. If anything, India's relationships with the Islamic countries have only improved since the arrival of the Narendra Modi government in 2014.

What this means is rather straightforward. Outsiders more or less ignore what happens in the domestic space in India provided what happens there is kept below boiling point and contained there. While the external reactions to how Indian Muslims are treated by Hindutva extremist organisations in India may be muted, derogatory remarks about Islam in general are unlikely to be tolerated. So, the question before us is a two-fold one: one, is it possible to keep the temperature on anti-Muslim tirade in India below boiling point, and two, once a politically convenient anti-Muslim narrative is created in the country, would it be possible to ensure that there is no spillover, materially or rhetorically?

West Asia is not the West

There is also a noticeable difference between how India has reacted to the criticism from the U.S./West on the treatment of Muslims in India or other issues pertaining to democracy and human rights, and how it has chosen to react to the criticism and summoning of its diplomats by the Muslim-majority states in West Asia. If anything, the Indian charge of hypocrisy against the U.S./West applies more to the Muslim-majority states in West Asia. And yet, India's response has been very different. Why so?

For one, the material consequences of defying the western/U.S. indignation are far less than those of aggressively or defiantly pushing back the criticism from the Islamic countries. India needs the region for remittances, energy, and more importantly, for the well-being of its millions of migrant labourers there. For sure, India also needs the U.S./West for similar and other reasons. However, given that the U.S. and the West are more advanced democracies, they are highly unlikely to impose any arbitrary material costs on India or Indian citizens living in those countries.

That might not be the case with the West Asian countries if the Prophet is denigrated. Put differently, if India defiantly pushes back using the same language it uses against the West/U.S., it could prompt them to impose material costs on New Delhi. Second, while India and the West/U.S. need each other for a variety of reasons, including the China challenge, such inter-dependence does not really exist when it comes to India-West Asia relations: India needs the West Asian states more than they need India.

A lesson

India's foreign policy under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second term has been on a high, with a number of achievements to its credit. Indeed, just a month ago, the world was queuing up for New Delhi's attention. Today, India's diplomats are getting summoned for an apology. There is little doubt that New Delhi's diplomats will be able to tide over the current crisis and repair the country's relations with West Asia. But the recent incident has highlighted the undeniable danger of unconstrained domestic extremism harming India's foreign policy objectives.

Happymon Jacob teaches India's Foreign Policy at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi

It is a bumping-off of the rule of law too

The inquiry into the 2019 Hyderabad encounter killings is a reminder that the police must observe the spirit of the law

M.P. NATHANAEL

A recent report submitted by the commission of inquiry headed by a former Supreme Court of India judge, Justice V.S. Sirpurkar, indicting the police in Hyderabad for the fake encounter, in 2019, on the outskirts of Hyderabad near Shamshabad, should serve as an eye-opener to senior police officials who by-pass the law and due processes and eliminate suspects with impunity. Decidedly, a fake encounter, the law should now take its own course; a first information report should be filed against the police officials concerned for the murder of the four youth suspected to have gang-raped a veterinary doctor and then murdered her and burnt her body on the night of November 27.

Stretching credulity

That D.R. Karthikeyan, a very senior Indian Police Service officer (also Special Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation who investigated the Rajiv Gandhi murder case), was associated with the commission of inquiry lends credence to the fact that after a thorough investigation, the killing of the youths was deemed to be nothing but a pre-meditated cold-blooded murder. The alleged culprits deserved severe punishment after observing all legal procedures. But definitely not execution by policemen who later boasted about their so-called heroic act – shooting down unarmed men in the early hours of December 6, 2019.

The public outcry to apprehend the men after the crime may have pushed the police to act fast. Indubitably, they did a great job by arresting the criminals in a very short time. But, thereafter, things became murky when the police preferred to take the law into their own hands and eliminate the four youth.

Even as the details of the encounter were reported in the media, it became amply clear that it was indeed a fake encounter. The version by the police, that the four youth attempted to escape after throwing mud in the eyes of the policemen and attempting to snatch their weapons, was silly and nothing but a cover up; it was a murderous act. That unarmed youth, who should have been in handcuffs, attempted to overpower a large number if policemen sounds too ludicrous to believe.

A signal from the top

In November 2017, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Yogi Adityanath, had publicly stated that criminals would be jailed or killed in encounters. The message that went to the law-enforcing agencies, though in a subtle manner, was that they had been given a free hand to deal with criminals; no questions asked. By the end of his first term as the Chief Minister, 151 criminals had been killed and over 3,300 maimed by gunshot injuries, mostly in the legs, in over 8,500 encounters; 13 policemen are reported to have been killed and 1,157 injured.

Following the lead of Uttar Pradesh, the Chief Minister of Assam too gave clear directions to the Assam police personnel that criminals who attempted to escape should be shot. The message was loud and clear. It was for the police to prove that a criminal was shot dead while trying to escape. Between May 10, 2021 and January 28, 2022, as many as 28 suspects were killed and 73 injured by the police, a majority of them from the minority community and most others from ethnic communities.

GETTY IMAGES

Following three murders within 24 hours in three districts of Bihar in March last year, three legislators of the State (from the Bharatiya Janata Party) suggested that the Uttar Pradesh model of encounter killings by the police be adopted in Bihar too, in order to bring down the crime rate. In the same manner, the recent 'bulldozer policy' of Uttar Pradesh has also been adopted in Madhya Pradesh and Delhi, giving established legal procedures a go-by.

Extra-judicial killings go against the very spirit of rule of law. What is mind boggling is the fact that the very same veterans of the Indian Police Service who confabulate on fake encounters and custodial deaths on various television channels, condemning police actions, are also the ones who while serving in the police setup acquiesced to public outcry or political diktats and went with the tide. There are exceptions, of course.

When commissions are set up to inquire into fake encounters, it is usually low-ranking officers, from constables to inspectors, who have to face the brunt. Senior police officers who may have given their consent to eliminate the criminals are allowed to go scot free and are rarely indicted. If personnel from the ranks are incarcerated for fake encounters, so should senior officers; it is their responsibility to ensure that the rule of law is strictly followed in their jurisdiction.

Complaints of fake encounters need to be attended to on top priority and the judiciary activated immediately after a complaint is received. For obvious reasons, the police will not readily register a complaint of a fake encounter lest comrades in khaki land in trouble.

On magisterial inquiries

Magisterial inquiries conducted by local magistrates turn out to be farce as they have to work in consonance with the police of the district; they would be inclined to go with the police version and give them a clean chit. A solution would be to nominate magistrates from other States who would be impartial and fair in their inquiries. Commissions of inquiry should comprise police officers from other States who enjoy a reputation of moral rectitude and fair play. But for the intervention of the Supreme Court of India that had constituted the inquiry commission to look into the Hyderabad case, the 10 policemen accused of carrying out the murder of four youths would have escaped censure and may have been looking for more such opportunities to wear and demonstrate the "encounter specialist" tag placed on them.

It would not be a surprise if those indicted in fake encounters have been awarded police gallantry medals. These medals or citations should be withdrawn as fake encounters do not in any way give an opportunity to display an act of courage. Killing unarmed and helpless suspects who may not decidedly be criminals is an act of cowardice.

If States begin to adopt extra-judicial strategies to bring down the crime rate, the day may not be far off when the country would be ruled by criminals in uniform, with the judiciary watching mutely as the protective cover of rule of law is torn to pieces.

Back in August 2011, a Bench of the Supreme Court comprising Justices Markandey Katju and C.K. Prasad (while hearing a fake encounter case of an alleged gangster by the Rajasthan police in October 2006) had said: "Fake encounter killings by cops are nothing but cold-blooded brutal murder which should be treated as the rarest of rare offence and police personnel responsible for it should be awarded death sentence. They should be hanged." The sooner it is done after trial through fast track courts, the better it would be for the nation, as it will serve as a signal and deterrent to other policemen.

M.P. Nathanael is a former Inspector General of Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Diplomatic fallout

One of the diplomatic successes of the Narendra Modi government over the past eight years has been the bonhomie it has cultivated with several countries in West Asia despite the Bharatiya Janata Party's increasingly brazen anti-minority rhetoric and actions. There has now been a strong West Asian sea wave. The ruling party and the Government are mistaken if they think their belated responses to the raging issue will calm the waters that they and their allies have themselves poisoned with bigotry.

S.S. PAUL,
Chakdaha, Nadia, West Bengal

■ The shock treatment inflicted by some West Asian countries to the juggernaut of Hindutva forces would hopefully apply the brakes. But if the existing grave scenario is not sincerely addressed, the prognosis would be a bleak future for all Indians, irrespective of whether it is majority or minority community.

AYYASSERI RAVEENDRANATH,
Aranmula, Kerala

■ The BJP leadership should clarify whether their senior party spokespersons who speak on behalf of the party and the Government come under the category 'fringe element' or otherwise. As for the present controversy, 'action' should have been taken before the 'reaction' from Arab nations and the OIC. The Election Commission of India should frame rules to rein in political parties that fail to take strict action against their leaders involved in hate speech or even enforce short-term curbs on their political activities.

N. NAGARAJAN,
Secunderabad

Protest by nurses

It is unfortunate that out of the 12,000 odd nurses in Tamil Nadu who were recruited through the Medical Services Recruitment Board from 2015, nearly 10,000 nurses are awaiting regularisation. That their pay is also far below the minimum wage prescribed for even an unskilled labourer is unfortunate. The nurses have been receiving a raw deal throughout.

One should not forget that medical staff risked their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, a former Chief Justice of the Madras High Court who opted to get treated at a government hospital when he tested positive for COVID-19, later acknowledged that the treatment was good. The State government must improve the service conditions of medical staff and codify the same as in the case of industrial workers.

N.G.R. PRASAD,
Chennai

The gladiator of tennis

Rafael Nadal has proved that he is a tennis giant, revolutionising the game of tennis with his ferocious top-spin forehand, his freakish strength and his relentless drive.

The star also has a rare philosophical approach to tennis and life that one sportswriter described very aptly as being a "model of humility, empathy and perspective".

SEETHARAM BASAANI,
Waddepalli, Hanamkonda, Telangana

Dealing with the Indo-Pacific is not easy

While the IPEF may be a good idea, the framework does not address issues of trade and tariffs

SRIDHAR KRISHNASWAMI

The leaders of Australia, the U.S., India and Japan at the Quad summit in Tokyo. • AP

U.S. President Joseph Biden cannot forget his recent five-day visit to Asia. Hours after he left to return to the U.S., North Korea test-fired three ballistic missiles even as it is preoccupied with a 'fever' in the country. Japan's Defence Minister said Chinese and Russian fighter jets carried out joint flights over the Sea of Japan and the East China Sea on May 24 as leaders of the Quad met in Tokyo. And when Air Force One landed in the U.S., Mr. Biden became witness to the sparring between Republicans and Democrats about gun control legislation in the aftermath of a shooting at an elementary school in Texas which claimed 21 lives, of which 19 were children.

Biden's Asian visit

Still, in the assessment of the Biden White House, the outcome of the Asian trip could not have been better. The new conservative South Korean government showed willingness to turn the heat on North Korea and said it would even expand the presence of a U.S. missile defence system in the country, which had earlier angered China. In Japan, the administration promised him that it was ready to do away with its long-standing 1% GDP ceiling for annual defence spending.

Against the backdrop of growing concern over Chinese military activity in the region, Mr. Biden said at a press conference that the U.S. would intervene militarily to defend Taiwan if it came under attack from China. The jury is still out on whether this unusually forceful statement by the President was a gaffe or a well-thought-out response. In any event, the President and members of his delegation were quick to walk back and clarify that there is no change in the substance of American foreign policy, which is still governed by the Taiwan Relations Act. As per the 1979 Congressional law, the U.S. "shall provide Taiwan with arms of a defensive character" so that the region can defend itself; the law says nothing about the U.S. being required to step in militarily to defend Taiwan in the event of an invasion by China. But Mr. Biden made some folks happy in the region even if the primary purpose of his visit was not about clarifying 'strategic ambiguity'.

It is no secret that the Indo-Pacific region has been under pressure and East Asia, in particular, has had to weather repeated storms. South Korea and Japan face regular nuclear and missile threats from North Korea. China not only challenges international maritime laws in the South China Sea, but also confronts Japan over the Senkaku Islands. Six nations, including China and Taiwan, are involved in the dispute over the Spratly Islands, which are supposedly sitting on vast reserves of oil and natural gas. China has vigorously militarised some portions of the disputed isles, islets and coral reefs; and countries like Vietnam and the Philippines are anxious not to be left behind.

The IPEF framework

The buzzword in the Indo-Pacific that President Biden wanted to emphasise was China. Nearly every one of the nations in this part of the world recognises the assertiveness and aggressiveness of Beijing, which is seen as wanting to be at the centre of things and on its terms, but few are able to come up with a strategy to deal with China. And one way that the Biden administration has sought to get around this is by establishing an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) with Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The IPEF will work on fine-tuning four major pillars: standards and rules for digital trade; resilient supply chains; green energy commitments; and fair trade.

But first indications are that while the IPEF may be a good idea, there is discontent that the framework does not address issues of trade and tariffs. The Biden administration would not want to touch this with a barge pole, especially with mid-term elections barely five months away. "I think what the U.S. has to offer, and the only thing the U.S. has to offer, is money. Which some, I think, will be forthcoming, particularly for clean energy, maybe even some for supply chain resilience, and anti-corruption," Professor of Law and Trade Bryan Mercurio at the Chinese University of Hong Kong said. "But of course, what Asian partners really want is trade. I think they want market access. And the trade component of the IPEF is really lacking."

There are two facets to the Asia Pacific/Indo-Pacific that any administration in Washington must pay attention to. One is that China's neighbours would rather balance relations between Washington and Beijing. But as Michael Schuman said in a piece in *The Atlantic*, the message to Chinese President Xi Jinping should be loud and clear: "As in Europe, where Vladimir Putin's aggression is uniting the rest of the region against him, so too in Asia is an aggressive China entrenching, not weakening, American power."

On the other hand is the extent to which countries in the region will want to get on the anti-China bandwagon, economic or strategic. Whether it is in East, Southeast or South Asia, every country has its own unique relationship with Beijing. South Korea and Japan are part of a strong American security/strategic partnership but will be keen on maintaining their economic status with China. This is also true for the Association of South East Asian Nations. India may be a part of the Quad, but is quite mindful that it is the only country in the group that shares a land border with China which is laced with disputes.

An uphill task

It is useful to recall what Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said at the International Conference on the Future of Asia in Tokyo on May 26: "In response to geopolitical tensions, countries have increasingly emphasised resilience and national security considerations over the economic gains from free trade and investment flows but they should be very careful about taking extreme measures, pre-emptively before conflicts arise. Whether to disconnect themselves from global supply chains and strive for reshoring or to go for "friend-shoring" and to cut off countries that are not allies or friends... such actions shut off avenues for regional growth and cooperation, deepen divisions between countries, and may precipitate the very conflicts that we all hope to avoid".

For all the tough talking prior to the bilateral talks or at the time of the Quad summit, the four leaders of the Quad did not mention Russia or China in the Joint Statement, for each of them understands the sensitivities. Further, President Biden is perceptive and aware of the vagaries of U.S. lawmakers. As it is, foreign policy has little traction and with Democrats expected to perform poorly on November 8, legislation, especially pertaining to funding for external initiatives, is going to be an uphill task.

Sridhar Krishnaswami is a former senior journalist in Washington who covered North America and the United Nations

The future of a Uniform Civil Code

It is plausible that a serious and honest exercise might end up causing more consternation among Hindus than Muslims

SHAIKH MUJIBUR REHMAN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami recently set up a committee to prepare a draft Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for the State. Several leaders of BJP-ruled States have batted for a UCC in India. Though implementation of a UCC has been a key agenda of the BJP and has found a mention in the last two manifestos, the party's regional leaders have been more vocal in championing this cause than its national leaders. One wonders whether the BJP is employing a bottom-up strategy to accomplish its long-standing ideological goal, by urging a few States to pass their respective UCCs so that it can use these for its national campaign for one.

Opposition to UCC

Muslim groups, particularly Ulemas, have been opposed to the idea of a UCC for a long time. The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, led by Mahmood Asad Madani, recently passed a resolution against a UCC at a meeting in Deoband which was attended by over 2,500 of its members. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has been consistently opposing a UCC because it fears that such a code will undermine Muslim identity. Indeed, it owes its existence to this fear. The AIMPLB was set up in 1973 at the initiative of Muhammad Taiyab, who was then Muhtamim of the Deoband madrasa. When H.R. Gokhale, as Law Minister, tabled an Adoption Bill in Parliament, which was not consistent with Muslim religious laws on guardianship, Muslim clergies were anxious. They saw the Bill as a precursor to a UCC. A small meeting took place in Deoband followed by a larger congregation in Mumbai on December 27-28, 1972. The AIMPLB was born four months later. The fear of a UCC and the preservation of Muslim personal law were the reasons for the formation of the AIMLAB. Over the years, the body began to champion diverse Muslim issues such as protection of disputed Islamic religious structures.

Ever since the passage of the Hindu Code Bill, the Hindu Right is of the view that Muslims are being pampered by being allowed to have their own personal laws in a Hindu majority country and therefore need to be 'disciplined' and brought under a UCC. In 1996, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee called for a national debate on UCC during his speech against a no-confidence motion in Parliament. During the speech, he appreciated the practice of consent by brides in Muslim marriage rituals as progressive. One wonders how the Hindu Right would react if this practice is accepted as part of a UCC. Responding to the debate, former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao cited the age-old tradition of marriages between uncles and nieces among Hindus in Andhra Pradesh, and challenged the BJP to address it. Should this tradition of Hindus of Andhra be abolished or be made applicable among Hindus outside Andhra? The truth is that there are plenty of customs and traditions in Hindu society that have to be creatively addressed to do justice to the idea of a UCC. Moreover, Flavia Agnes and other feminists have recognised many anti-women biases in the Hindu Code Bill, which are not adequately brought forward in Indian public debate. This has resulted in the public perception that Muslim personal laws alone need reform.

What will a UCC look like?

It is plausible that a serious and honest exercise might end up causing more consternation in Hindu society than in Muslim society. In an erudite inaugural remark, Upendra Baxi, in a workshop on 'Dispelling Rhetorics: Law of Divorce and Gender Equality in Islam' in 2017, said: "Do we know enough about the personal law of various tribal communities from which the UCC may choose?... Do we know enough about the religious personal law of other Indian communities? It is a sad mistake to think UCC is all about Hindu-Muslim relations and identities...".

The BJP has been able to realise two of its key ideological agendas over the last eight years: abrogating special status for Jammu and Kashmir and facilitating the construction of a Ram Mandir in Ayodhya. Comparatively speaking, the task of realising a UCC is not going to be easy. The truth is, the caste system which is integral to Hindu society celebrates hierarchy, which in turn is incompatible with the idea of uniformity or equality. Sadly, since independence, no group, either in favour of or against a UCC, has been able to prepare a text of what a UCC would realistically mean for a confusingly diverse Indian society. Given the toxic political climate of our time, it is plausible that the efforts by various BJP State-level regimes may lend a majoritarian spin to such an exercise. Such an outcome will raise the political temperature of numerous secular groups and religious minorities and invite enduring dissent against a UCC.

Shaikh Mujibur Rehman teaches at the Jamia Millia Central University, New Delhi, and is the author of a forthcoming book, 'Sikuva- e- Hind: The Political Future of Indian Muslims'

STATE OF PLAY

Pandering to pressure groups

The Kerala government is losing sight of the larger issues of conservation and sustainable development

T. NANDAKUMAR

In what seems to be a replay of the widespread protests in 2013 against the demarcation of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) for the conservation of the Western Ghats, the high ranges in Kerala, dominated by settler farmers, are again becoming restive. While it was the bitter opposition to the Gadgil and Kasturirangan Committee Reports that led to the protests earlier, this time it is an order issued by the Supreme Court mandating the maintenance of a 1 km Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around forests that has triggered the unrest.

Last week, Kerala Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran stated that the order would pose a setback to the State's efforts to exclude human settlements adjoining forest fringes from regulations on development. Following this, the High Range Protection Council, largely representing settler farmers and headed by the church, has threatened to launch another round of protests demanding legislation to bypass the order.

The apex court's directive will force the State government to revise the ESZ of at least 10 of the protected areas which were earlier marked as zero following massive public resistance.

In 2014, the Kerala Assembly had unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to exclude human settlements and agricultural land from the 123 villages identified as ESA by the Kasturirangan committee. The then Chief Minister Oommen Chandy told the House that Kerala's stand was dictated by the larger interests of farmers. The government later said that only protected areas would be demarcated as ESA, inviting criticism from environmentalists who warned that it would prove disastrous for the fragile ecosystem of the Western Ghats. They feared that the political consensus on excluding populated areas from the ESA would defeat the very purpose of the notification.

Eight years later, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's reaction to the Supreme Court order is similar to that of Mr. Chandy. He said the LDF government was not in favour of human habitations being turned into ESZs. Noting that Kerala had a peculiar situation in which regions in forest fringes were thickly populated, he said the government's priority would be to protect people's interests.

It is relevant that the order has not prescribed any new restrictions in the ESZs barring the ban on construction of permanent structures. The prohibited activities include commercial mining, setting up of sawmills and major hydel projects, commercial use of firewood, production of hazardous substances, and tourism activities such as flying aircraft and hot air balloons over the national park area and the discharge of effluents and solid waste to natural water bodies or terrestrial areas.

The draft notification issued by the Union Ministry of Environment in April to declare ESZs around the Neyyar and Peppara wildlife sanctuaries in Thiruvananthapuram had also run into a wall of protest, with local bodies expressing the fear that the regulations would hinder development activities and eventually lead to phased migration from the region.

Significantly, the final notification on demarcating ESAs in the Western Ghats spanning six States (Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa and Gujarat) has been pending for almost nine years, with the stakeholder States demanding exclusion of more areas, notwithstanding the devastation caused by recurrent natural calamities.

The Kerala government is trying to keep the lid on the unrest by excluding inhabited areas from the purview of the regulations prescribed by the Ministry and the court. But in surrendering to the compulsions of politics and the clout of pressure groups and religious leaders, it is losing sight of the larger issues of conservation and sustainable development. A State with 25 protected areas can ill afford to turn its back on conserving these precious natural assets for posterity.

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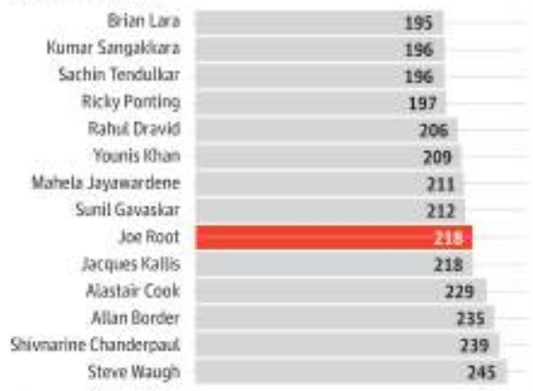
DATA POINT

Root walks into 10k club

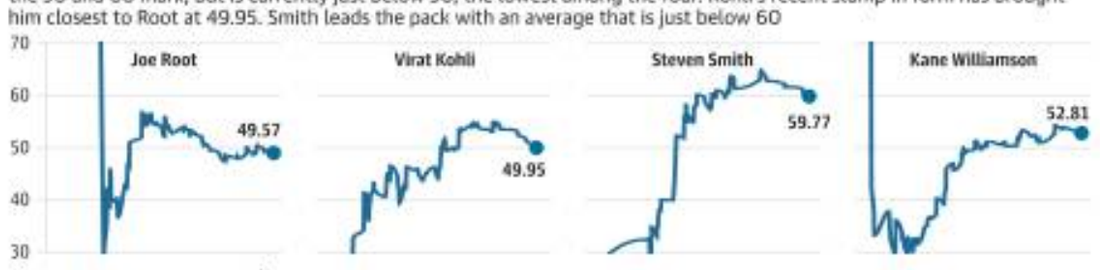
On Sunday, Joe Root became the 14th batsman to cross 10,000 career Test runs after scoring an unbeaten century which helped England secure a hard-fought victory against New Zealand. Root took 218 innings to reach the coveted mark, the ninth-fastest among the 14, along with Jacques Kallis. Root's current career average of 49.57 is positioned 12th when compared with the 14 players' averages when they reached the 10,000 run-mark. Root is the first among the big four — Virat Kohli, Kane Williamson, and Steven Smith being the other three — to reach the mark. However, currently, he has the lowest average among the four. Also, his control* this year was the poorest among the four. By **Rebecca Rose Varghese** and **Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

Fastest to 10k | The graph shows the number of innings taken by each player to reach the 10,000 Test runs-mark. Brian Lara reached the mark in 195 innings, the fastest yet, while Root did it in 218, the ninth quickest along with Kallis

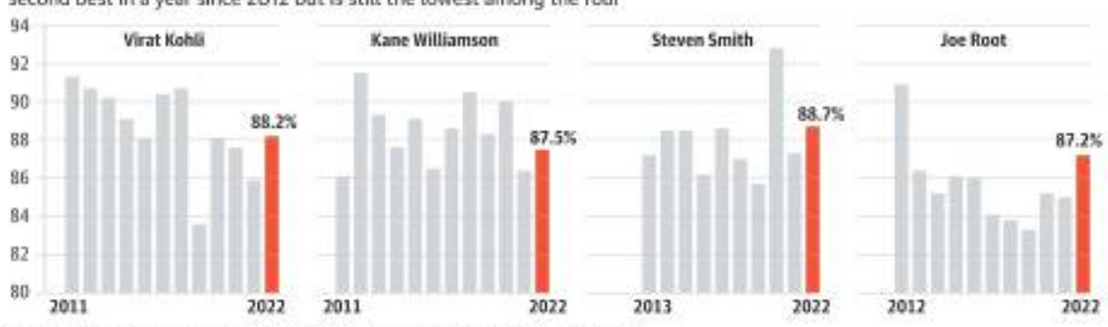


Average at 10k | The graph shows the cumulative average when players crossed the 10,000 Test runs-mark in their careers. Ricky Ponting had the best average of 58.72, followed by Sachin Tendulkar. Root's 49.57 is better than the averages of Steve Waugh and Alastair Cook

Average among Big 4 | The graphs show the running Test averages of the big four. Root's had oscillated between the 50 and 60 mark, but is currently just below 50, the lowest among the four. Kohli's recent slump in form has brought him closest to Root at 49.95. Smith leads the pack with an average that is just below 60



Control among Big 4 | Control measures the % share of deliveries that the batsman was able to hit as he intended. The number is based on whether the batsman played the ball (left alone, attacked or defended) or got beaten or edged. Every delivery results in a controlled or an uncontrolled shot. With a control % of 87.2, Root's figure in 2022 was his second best in a year since 2012 but is still the lowest among the four



Source: **Control stats courtesy Vishnu Vasudevan (Cricket-21.com)** and Cricinfo

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 9, 1972

Message to Mujib from Bhutto

Ankara, June 8: The Pakistan President, Mr. Z.A. Bhutto has told the Turkish leaders that he had sent a message to Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, Bangladesh Prime Minister, offering to meet him in either Turkey or Pakistan or in India or any neutral country, informed sources said here to-day. Mr. Bhutto also assured the Turkish Government that the summit meeting with Mrs. Indira Gandhi would not be postponed from the Pakistani side. The sources said Turkey had, meanwhile, given Mr. Bhutto an assurance that it would await the outcome of his projected summit talks with Mrs. Gandhi before making any moves on diplomatic recognition of Bangladesh. A joint statement issued after Mr. Bhutto's talks with Turkish leaders expressed the hope that the planned "summit between Mr. Bhutto and the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi would lead to a durable and honourable settlement of the dispute between their two countries that would safeguard peace and security for their peoples." According to a Tehran report, Mr. Bhutto accompanied by his wife arrived in the Iranian capital to-day on a three-day visit and was given an official welcome by the Shah and Empress Farah at the airport.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 9, 1922

Indian reforms

London, June 7: Reviewing the working of Indian reforms, a correspondent of the "Morning Post" expressed the opinion that the passage to responsible Government is going to be exorbitantly costly. He admits that the Popular Government cannot reasonably be charged with the present financial situation, but its tendencies inspire most serious apprehensions for the future. All the provinces are outrunning their incomes. Their affairs are directed by men who have no real sense of public responsibility and who seek popularity by advocating expensive schemes of social amelioration and by opposing Government mechanism in Government provinces, enormously elaborated new buildings and new staffs which form a mere deadweight are adding nothing to the efficiency of the administration. Defects are not set off by the new spirit of Indian politicians who today are as stolidly opposed to Government as they were thirty years ago. The correspondent declares that the Council of State has been practically eclipsed by the Assembly.

FROM PAGE ONE

RBI raises rates to tame inflation

Mr. Das stressed that between February and April, headline inflation had increased by about 170 basis points (bps).

"With no resolution of the war in sight and the upside risks to inflation, prudent monetary policy measures would ensure that the second-round effects of supply side shocks on the economy are contained and long-term inflation expectations remain firmly anchored and inflation gradually aligns close to the target," he said.

The baseline inflation projection of 6.7% for 2022-23 did not take into account the impact of monetary policy actions taken on Wednesday, Mr. Das added.

"We foresee further repo hikes of 35 bps and 25 bps, respectively, in the next two policies," Ms. Nayar of ICRA said.

Not surprisingly, central banks were reorienting and recalibrating their monetary policies, Mr. Das said. Emerging market economies (EMEs) were facing bigger challenges from increased market turbulence, monetary policy shifts in advanced economies (AEs) and their spillovers.

Mr. Das said that the RBI would continue to be proactive and decisive in mitigating the fallout of the ongoing geopolitical crisis on the economy.

GST, IBC will push growth, says CEA

"While we are definitely focusing on the near-term concerns and challenges. We need to understand that the medium-term fundamentals of the Indian economy remain solid and Indian economy is much better placed than many others in this world to face the challenges that we are currently encountering," Mr. Nageswaran noted at an event hosted by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) to mark the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* celebrations this week.

"Some of the structural reforms that the government under the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi such as the Goods and Services Tax, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, etc. might have been temporarily overshadowed by external developments such as the pandemic and now the geopolitical conflict," the CEA remarked.

Projected growth

"However, once these clouds recede, they will begin to manifest their benefits and advantages in advancing India's potential growth in decades to come. That is why India is now forecasted by the IMF to cross $5 trillion by 2026-27. And if the dollar GDP of the country doubles every seven years, we will be at $20 trillion GDP by 2040 with a per capita income of close to $15,000," he projected.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that this is the result of coherent projects and the Centre and States working together and the existence of a department that only focuses on the economy, the DEA.

'Satisfied with action against spokespersons'

In addition, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the two Ministers "reiterated the need for a representative and inclusive political system in support of a peaceful, secure and stable Afghanistan."

The visiting Foreign Minister will be in Mumbai on Thursday and then will travel to Hyderabad.

In a statement issued in Farsi, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said the Minister had raised the issue of the controversial remarks by members of the ruling party with Mr. Doval, and was satisfied by the response he received.

"Since the beginning of my arrival in India, I have felt that the Indian authorities strongly reject the arbitrary action taken by one of their officials," a translated version of a tweet issued separately said. The NSA's office did not comment on the conversation.

The statement said the two sides had discussed proposals, especially on the Chabahar port, the International North South Transport Corridor, as well as trade and investment, adding that Mr. Abdollahian had announced that Iran has "no restrictions" on expanding relations with India.

However, the statements made no reference to whether India and Iran would discuss restoring some of the trade and investment deals in energy, including oil supplies from Iran, and Indian investment in Iranian oil and gas reserves, both of which came to a standstill in 2019, after the U.S. Trump administration threatened sanctions.

SC questions Centre on vacant NEET-PG seats

The affidavit said the petitions were filed at a belated stage and would disrupt the whole process for the upcoming counselling for NEET-PG 2022. "Counselling for two academic sessions cannot run concurrently," the government said. There was also a delay in the counselling session due to the outbreak of the third wave of the pandemic.

The Ministry said a total of 2,025 seats were offered in the all-India quota stray vacancy round of PG 2021 counselling. A total of 1.17 lakh candidates had participated. However, 1,456 seats had remained vacant, of which approximately 1,117 seats were for pre-paramedical courses, which were not selected by the candidates during various rounds of counselling.

During the hearing, Justice Shah orally questioned the random increasing of seats during the counselling process and leaving them vacant at the end of it.

The court said fluctuations in seats added to the stress of parents and students. "What do you get in leaving seats vacant when we are in need of doctors?... Why is there no streamlining? Do you know the stress level of the students and parents?" the court asked the committee.

Approximately 1,456 seats have remained vacant since May.

The court said the move to hike the number of seats in the middle of the counselling process could even increase the chances of corruption in medical admissions. "There must be a cut-off," the Bench said.

The court scheduled the case for hearing on Thursday.

Ahead of sowing, Kharif MSP revealed

Congress says govt. has not matched UPA-era raise; AIKS says incremental increases won't help

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday raised the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by ₹100 a quintal for the Kharif season of 2022-23. The rates for 14 crops have been increased in the range of 4% to 8%.

This is similar to the increase in MSP in 2021-22, which was in the range of 1% to 7%.

At a press briefing after a meeting of the Union Cabinet, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said Indian agriculture had scaled new heights in the past eight years because of the government's *beej se bazar tak* (seed to market) vision.

"In today's Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it has been decided that MSP rates for all varieties of 14 kharif crops have been increased."

To boost morale

Mr. Thakur said the new rates had been announced before the beginning of the sowing season, for assured returns to the farmers and to boost their morale.

Benchmark rises | On Wednesday, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs increased the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all mandated Kharif crops for marketing season 2022-23. A look at the increase in MSP for select crops

Crop	MSP 2022-23	Increase in MSP (Absolute)	Return over cost (%)
Paddy (Common)	2,040	100	50
Bajra	2,350	100	85
Ragi	3,578	201	50
Maize	1,962	92	50
Moong	7,755	480	50
Urad	6,600	300	59
Groundnut	5,850	300	51
Sesame	7,830	523	50

SOURCE: PIB

It would give farmers an indication of the price they would get and help them decide which crops to grow.

Paddy is the main Kharif crop, the sowing of which has already begun. The MSP for paddy (common), which was ₹1,940 a quintal in 2021-22, and paddy (grade A), which was ₹1,960 a quintal, had increased by ₹100. The highest increase had been for two varieties of jowar at the rate of 8%. And the lowest increase of ₹92 had been for maize, whose price was ₹1,870.

The present increase comes against the backdrop of spiralling input rates, especially due to a sharp increase in fertilizer rates. Mr. Thakur said that the government's fertilizer subsidy bill had also simultaneously increased.

Doubled subsidy

"In spite of the global increase in prices of fertilizers, this year, we are giving subsidy worth ₹2.1 lakh crore. This is double what the government was paying last year, which was ₹1 lakh crore. We haven't let the burden pass on to the farmers," he said. The announcement did not generate positive sentiment among the farm unions.

All-India Kisan Sabha leader Hannan Mollah said that such incremental increase in prices would not make a difference.

He dismissed the announcement as an effort to hoodwink the farmers. "Fertilizers are selling at the price of gold and such marginal increases will not make a dent," he said.

No statutory compulsion

Krantikari Kisan Union leader Darshan Pal Singh said the fundamental problem still remained, that the MSP was not a statutory compulsion.

"The government, at the end of the day, only procures four crops and that too from select States. We have been saying that the minimum bidding for the crop should begin from the MSP onwards. We shall begin the second round of our agitation for this soon," he said.

The increase have been announced at a time when the government is struggling to procure crops in the wake of a high demand because of global supply disruption. Farmers are selling crops in the open market since they are getting better rates.

The Congress, meanwhile, said the rate of increase of MSP by the Narendra Modi government was far lower than what was done during the United Progressive Alliance regime.

Sharing comparative statistics, Rajya Sabha member and senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said, "The Prime Minister promised to double farmers' income by 2022...that has remained a *jumla*. All he has managed to do is increase their costs. The numbers show how the UPA government consistently stood by the farmers and expose the hollow claims of the BJP."

According to the chart he produced, the increase for paddy, for example, from 2005-06 to 2013-14 was 130%, while the increase from 2014-15 to 2022-23 under the BJP government, is 50%.

In all the 14 crops that were compared, the rate of hike during the UPA was higher than that of the BJP government.

India to take up migrants' cause at ILC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Social security concerns of Indians working abroad will be among the issues raised by Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav at the ongoing International Labour Conference (ILC) of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Ministry sources said on Wednesday.

Mr. Yadav will participate in the ILC on Thursday, while delegations from the Ministry and trade unions have been attending the various sessions that started on May 27 and will go on till Saturday. A top official of the Ministry said "migration should not be trafficking" and that social security of Indians working abroad should be ensured.

India has already signed social security agreements with 20 countries or provinces starting in 2009, with all but one already operational, according to Ministry sources. Bilaterals of Mr. Yadav with Canada and Morocco were also scheduled, they said.

Police file chargesheet against Ranas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Mumbai Police on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against Independent MP Navneet Kaur Rana, and her husband, Ravi Rana, MLA, before a magistrate court.

The 85-page chargesheet has been filed under Sections 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty) and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

The first information report (FIR) in this case was registered against them after they obstructed police officials from arresting them.

The first FIR was filed when they declared they would recite the *Hanuman Chalisa* outside Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's residence.

It was filed under Section 124A (sedition) and 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) of the IPC.

The couple did not appear before the court despite a notice issued to them on June 8by the Khar Police Station.

Their lawyer on Wednesday sought exemption for them from being physically present, which was allowed by the court.

'18,000 Pandits visit Kheer Bhavani temple'

This congregation has become a symbol of communal harmony and brotherhood in Kashmir: MHA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on Wednesday that around 18,000 Kashmiri Pandits and other devotees visited the Kheer Bhavani temple in Kashmir Valley's Ganderbal district on *Jyeshtha Ashtami*.

The statement comes in the wake of a string of targeted attacks against Kashmiri Pandits and members of the Hindu community in the Valley since October 2021. Many Pandits have left the Valley in the past few days citing threat to life. The festival couldn't be held in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19.

Devotees performing *aarti* in front of a sacred pond at the Kheer Bhawani Temple on Wednesday. • NISSAR AHMAD

The MHA said that over the years, the Kheer Bhavani congregation has become a symbol of communal harmony and brotherhood in Kashmir.

"Elaborate security arrangements were made and the event was monitored by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha," the statement said.

Around 2,500 Kashmiri Pandit devotees participated in the evening *aarti*, the Ministry said. The religious sanctity of the Mata Kheer Bhavani temple, built atop a holy spring, has a special spiritual significance among Kashmir Pandit devotees across the world.

The MHA said that a free bus service was run from Srinagar Airport, Tourist Reception Centre, Dal Lake Side Nehru Park, Shankaracharya Temple, Shivpora, Bibi Cantt, Indira Nagar, etc., in areas where Hindu communities live in large numbers.

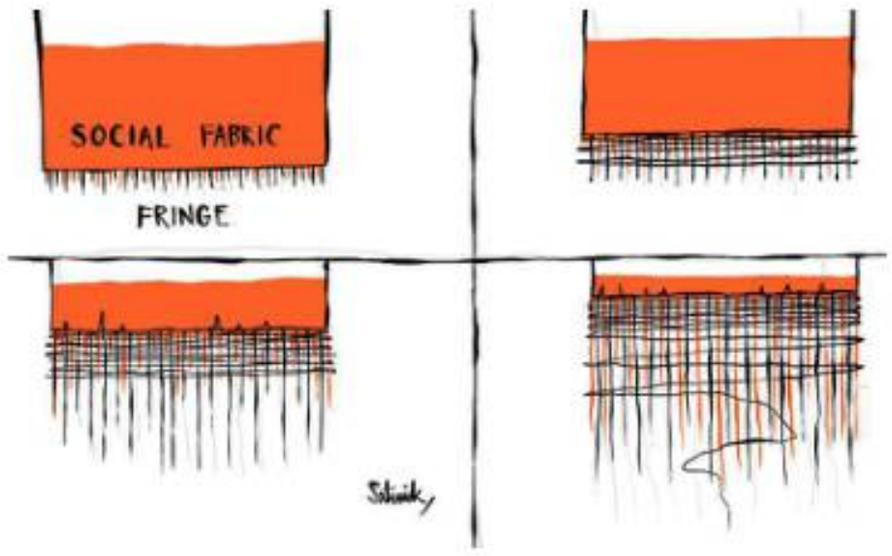
Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a tweet, "Happy *Jyestha Ashtami* to all, especially Kashmiri Pandit sisters and brothers. We pray to Mata Kheer Bhavani for everyone's well-being and prosperity."

Nine persons were killed in targeted killing in the past two months in Kashmir, including four members of the minority community.

The killings result in a grim situation for the Pandits, many of whom have already migrated outside the Valley. However, devotees said they were hopeful the situation would improve.

Besides Kashmir Pandits, scores of tourists also visited the temple during the festival.

On the draw



Court reserves order of bail for NCP leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

A special court on Wednesday reserved its order on pleas filed by Maharashtra Cabinet Minister Nawab Malik and former Home Minister of Maharashtra Anil Deshmukh, both Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leaders, from jail seeking bail for a day to vote in the Rajya Sabha elections on June 10.

Nawab Malik and Anil Deshmukh have been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on charges of money laundering and both are lodged at the Arthur Road jail.

Senior advocate Amit Desai, appearing for Mr. Malik, argued that as an MLA, it is his duty to vote and there cannot be a preventive detention of a person prohibiting him from exercising a constitutional right to vote.

The ED's counsel Additional Solicitor-General Anil Singh said the right to vote is not a fundamental right.

Special judge R.N. Rokade heard the arguments for close to five hours and then reserved the order.

Chinese activity in Ladakh 'eye-opening': U.S. Army General

Joint operations and sharing practices increases everybody's readiness to respond to crisis, says General Charles A. Flynn

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The Chinese activity level in eastern Ladakh is "eye-opening" and some of the infrastructure being created in its Western Theatre Command is "alarming", a top U.S. General said on Wednesday. Speaking on the regional situation, he said that what China was doing today by taking an "incremental and insidious path" and the "destabilising and coercive behaviour" that it projected into the region were simply "not helpful".

Against this backdrop, India and the U.S. are set to hold the bilateral Army exercise in the high-altitude area in October.

"I believe that the activity level is eye-opening. I think some of the infrastructure that is being created in the Western Theatre Command is alarming. And so, much like across all of their military arsenal, one has to ask the question, why? The question comes as to what are their intentions," General Charles A. Flynn, Commander of U.S. Army Pacific, said, speaking to a select group of journalists.

Concerning behaviour

"I think that the talks, that are going on, are helpful, but behaviour matters here as well. So I think understanding what they are saying is one thing, but the way they are acting and behaving is concerning and should be concerning to everyone, and I think it is," he added.

Stating that the "destabilising and coercive behaviour" that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the People's Republic of China (PRC) project into the region were simply not helpful, General Flynn said it was worthy for like-minded countries to work together as a counterweight.

Working together: Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande with General Charles Flynn, in New Delhi on Tuesday. • PTI

General Flynn also stressed the centrality of land power, and said that Armies and land power in this region were the security architecture that bind the region together, which he also reiterated at a round-table discussion on the importance of land power in the Indo-Pacific organised by the Observer Research Foundation.

After the beginning of the stand-off in eastern Ladakh in April 2020, India and China had forward-deployed thousands of troops along the Line of Actual Control (LoC) in the area who largely continue to remain deployed, with the disengagement and de-escalation still incomplete. To a question during the round-table on the U.S. assistance to India during the stand-off, he said that in addition to sharing of insights, the U.S. had also accelerated transfer of extreme climate weather systems and different types of ammunitions, including for M-777 howitzers, among other capabilities.

On the military-to-military interactions between the Armies of India and the U.S., General Flynn referred to the Army staff talks held in Hawaii in June and remarked that the exchange of information between "what the Indian Army delegation expressed to us and we were able to share with them was profound".

The General will be visiting the Army's Eastern Command in Kolkata on Thursday.

The General also laid a lot of emphasis on the bilateral Army exercise *Yudh Abhyas*, and said the next edition of the exercise, to be hosted by India, would be held at an altitude of 9,000 feet to 10,000 feet in October and would see very high-level joint operations at high altitude.

General Flynn said the joint operations at high altitude in both countries would involve bringing in new technology, working on operational concepts, applying new concepts such as air-ground integration like Air Force assets, attack aviation, sustainment, medical evacuation and information exchange on a real-time basis.

He said these joint operations and sharing practices increased everybody's readiness to respond to whatever crisis that may occur and so had a "deterrent effect" across the region.

Fringe is BJP's core, says Rahul

Congress refers to controversial statements of top leaders in the past

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Stepping up the attack over controversial statements on Prophet Muhammed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokespersons, who were since sacked, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday claimed that the "fringe" was the BJP's core, referring to the previous statements by top leaders to make his point.

In a tweet, Mr. Gandhi referred to earlier statements by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and Lok Sabha member Sadhvi Pragya.

At the party's official briefing, spokesperson Pawan Khera also referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's past statements about *shamsaan-kabristan* (cremation ground versus burial grounds) and identifying people by their clothes.

The Congress also questioned why Indian embassies were sharing the BJP's press release about the party respecting all religions after comments by now-sacked BJP spokespersons Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal triggered a diplomatic row and prompted the Ministry of External Affairs to dismiss them as "fringe elements".

> You haven't heard the Prime Minster speak a word, you haven't heard the Home Minister utter a word. you have definitely not heard Mr. Jaishankar speak on this issue of hate speech within the country.
>
> PAWAN KHERA, Congress spokesperson

"Fringe is BJP's core," Mr. Gandhi tweeted while sharing headlines of news reports on statements by Mr. Shah, Mr. Adityanath, Mr. Thakur and Ms. Pragya.

In the image tweeted by the Congress leader, media reports quoted the Home Minister calling Bangladeshi migrants "termites" and the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister saying that "women are not capable of being left free or independent".

"India is paying the price for BJP's mistakes over many years... BJP spokespersons & Ministers spew venom on minorities and political opponents since 2015. No action. Instead, they are projected, protected and promoted. Two BJP spokespersons cross all limits. Some friendly countries along with others are furious leading to unprecedented diplomatic blowback. BJP Govt calls these spokespersons 'fringe elements' while it continues with many cringe elements," senior leader Jairam Ramesh said on Twitter.

"Our embassies abroad distribute BJP's apologies. Government keeps mum. Of course, Vishguru who is the inspiration and driving force behind these actions with a poisonous track record of over 20 years, keeps quiet," Mr. Ramesh said.

Addressing reporters at the Congress headquarters, Mr. Khera said, "You haven't heard the Prime Minster speak a word, you haven't heard the Home Minister utter a word, you have definitely not heard Mr. Jaishankar speak on this issue of hate speech within the country".

The Congress spokesperson alleged that the government ignored the warnings by intellectuals, retired bureaucrats and diplomats on hate speech. "The Prime Minister not just chose to be silent or to ignore this advice, he chose to use his echo system, parrot media to discredit these voices, demonise and silence them by labelling them as *Khan Market gang, tukde-tukde gang, award wapsi gang* and anti-nationals," Mr. Khera said.

RS polls: BJP, Congress try to outdo each other in Rajasthan

Both have approached Central agencies with complaints

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The ruling Congress and the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Rajasthan are trying to outdo each other in the run-up to the Rajya Sabha elections to four seats, with both parties approaching statutory bodies with their complaints. After the pleas made to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and the Election Commission of India (EC), the powers of Enforcement Directorate (ED) have been invoked.

The Congress has demanded registration of a first information report (FIR) against the BJP-backed Independent candidate, Subhash Chandra, as well as the BJP leaders, while alleging that they were attempting horse-trading of MLAs ahead of the June 10 polling.

Congress deputy chief whip Mahendra Chaudhary wrote to the Chief Election Commissioner with the demand on June 7.

> Our party and our MLAs are united. The three candidates fielded by the Congress are certain to win
>
> ASHOK GEHLOT, Rajasthan Chief Minister

On the other hand, the BJP has sent a complaint to the ED and the Election Commission over allegations of misuse of office by the Congress government, violation of the Model Code of Conduct, and intimidation of MLAs, accompanied by attempts at horse-trading. The Congress has described the complaint as a "ridiculous move", and said it was aimed at letting the ED enter the State.

"Our party and our MLAs are united. The three candidates fielded by the Congress are certain to win," Mr. Gehlot told reporters in Udaipur, where Congress MLAs and Independents were sequestered at a resort.

While the Bharatiya Tribal Party, which has two members in the State Assembly, has announced its support to the Congress candidates, the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), which also has two MLAs, is likely to make its stand clear by June 9.

The party has already stated that it would not support the BJP, to which it was "ideologically opposed".

CPI(M) stand

CPI(M) State Secretary Amra Ram told *The Hindu* on June 8 that since the Rajya Sabha elections had national ramifications, the party's Politburo would take an appropriate decision and convey it to the State unit.

"As far as the Independent candidate is concerned, it is quite evident that he enjoys the backing of the BJP. BJP leaders were present when he filed his papers," Mr. Ram said.

No laws on conversion needed: Nitish

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister and JD (U) leader Nitish Kumar on Wednesday said there was no need for any anti-conversion law in Bihar, where members of different religious communities live in peace and harmony.

"The government has always been alert here [in the State]. And people of all religious communities and groups live in peace. There is no such dispute in the State. Everyone is doing their own work in their own way. There is no incident like riots in Bihar. So there is no need for any such move here," Mr. Kumar said, when pressspersons asked him about the need for an anti-conversion law, on the sidelines of a government function in Patna.

However, leaders of the BJP – the allies of the JD(U) – have been asking for such a law. They have also said that no Rohingya should be included in the caste count in the State.

Maurya is SP's MLC candidate in U.P.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

OBC leader Swami Prasad Maurya, who had rebelled against the BJP only to lose his seat in the 2022 Assembly election, filed his papers as the Samajwadi Party's MLC candidate along with three others on Wednesday.

Mr. Maurya, a former Cabinet Minister in both the BSP and the BJP governments before he joined the SP ahead of the 2022 election, said the SP had honoured Dalits, Backward Caste people and deprived sections by nominating him.

Mr. Maurya had earlier faced an embarrassing upset in Fazilnagar in the Assembly election.

Meanwhile, another Maurya leader, an ally of the SP in the Assembly election, Keshav Dev Maurya, announced that he was breaking his ties with the SP. Mr. Keshav Dev, president of the Mahan Dal, accused the SP of neglecting his party.

Bishnoi behind Moosewala killing: police

An associate of main shooter is arrested in Pune

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi was the mastermind behind the killing of popular Punjabi singer and Congress leader Sidhu Moosewala, the Delhi Police Special Cell said on Wednesday.

Addressing a press conference, Special Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) H.S. Dhaliwal said they had arrested the associate of the main shooter of Moosewala, identified as Siddhesh Hiraman Kamle, alias Mahakal. The accused was arrested in Pune.

Lawrence Bishnoi

Mr. Dhaliwal said they had zeroed in on five accused involved in the singer's murder. "Bishnoi is the mastermind of the killing, I can't say how he carried out the murder," the official said.

"We have identified five more suspects in the case," the Special CP said, adding that Kamle is being jointly interrogated by the Maharashtra and the Delhi Police.

On May 29, Moosewala was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Mansa district of Punjab. Senior police officers had said Bishnoi had planned the murder from inside the Tihar jail and ordered the hit job by getting in touch with his accomplice and Canada-based gang member Goldy Brar, who then asked his associates to kill Moosewala.

Meanwhile, a team of the Mumbai Police Crime Branch has arrived in Delhi for interrogating Bishnoi in connection with the death threat letter received by actor Salman Khan.

BJP has failed to protect Kashmiri pandits: Uddhav

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Shiv Sena president and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday launched a broadside at the BJP at a mega party rally in Aurangabad.

He chastised the BJP for failing to protect Kashmiri pandits while stating that the party, once the Shiv Sena's long-time ally, could capture power at the Centre only because of the help rendered by the late Sena founder Bal Thackeray.

Mr. Thackeray further said that the late Bal Thackeray had never exhorted the Sena and its activists to hate Muslims nor did Shiv Sena preach hatred towards other religions.

Commenting on ex-BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma insulting the Prophet, Mr. Thackeray said that a BJP spokesperson cannot be the country's spokesperson nor can the BJP's stance be the country's stance.

'Media outlets must be more responsible'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Editors Guild of India (EGI) on Wednesday said it was disturbed by the irresponsible conduct of some national news channels in deliberately creating circumstances that target vulnerable communities by spewing hatred towards them and their beliefs.

The EGI demanded that these channels "pause and take a critical look at what they have done by giving legitimacy to divisive and toxic voices that has made the gap between communities unbridgeable".

It also demanded stricter vigilance by broadcaster and journalist bodies to prevent a recurrence of such conduct.

The Guild said: "Expectedly, there was a riot in Kanpur accompanied by an unprecedented trenchant reaction from many countries that were offended by the remarks of the ruling party spokespersons. In their angry statements they wondered about India's commitment to human rights and freedom of religion."

Stating that the incident caused an unnecessary embarrassment to the country, the EGI said it could have been avoided if some of the TV outlets had been mindful of the nation's constitutional commitment to secularism.

E-mail.ID-sectcrb_2006@yahoo.co.in ; Tel/Fax – 0671-2301751/2302751
Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK
('e' – PROCUREMENT NOTICE)
Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc.(R&B)2/2022-23

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Bridge & Building works as mentioned below.
2. No. of work : 07 Nos.
3. Nature of work : Bridge & Building Works
4. Class of contractor : 'B', 'A' , Special & Super Class
5. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10000/- (Online)
6. Available of bid documents in the web site : From 18.06.2022 to 16.00 Hours of 02.07.2022
7. Date of opening of bid : Dt. 04.07.2022 at 11.00 Hours.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tenderodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Sd/- P.K.Pradhan
Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle
B-270 : OIPR-34012/11/0003/2223

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
LUMPSUM CONTRACT (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
Tender Notice, NIT.No : 5 SE/Spl.Project Circle, Palani/2022-2023/Dt:07.06.2022
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, sealed tenders are invited from the Registered Contractors of PWD/WRD for the following work by the undersigned upto 3.00 PM on 12.07.2022. The Prequalification application alone will be opened at 3.30 PM on the same day.

Sl. No.	Name of work	EMD Rs.	Cost of Tender schedule + GST in Rs.	Period of Completion (Including rainy season)	Cost of Schedule and EMD to be remitted in favour of
1.	Construction of a Check dam across the Amaravathy river at LS 102.90 km of Manbadi - Pungandurai village in Dharapuram Taluk of Tiruppur District. Approximate Value of work Including GST Rs.1070.00 Lakhs	545000	Rs 15000 + GST	12 Months	The Executive Engineer, WRD., Amaravathy Basin Division, Dharapuram, Tirupur District.

1. Last date of receipt of requisition for tender documents 11.07.2022 up to 5.45 p.m.
2. Details of tender schedule and conditions are available in the website at free of cost https:www.tenders.tn.gov.in

DIPR/2682/Tender/2022 Superintending Engineer, WRD., Special Project Circle, Palani.
"சொல்லை உ. தூய வற்றிற் சூள் தூரோர், எல்லை புரிந்து எரிந்ரர் பல. திருவள்."

BHARAT DYNAMICS LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
GACHIBOWLI, HYDERABAD-500 032
Ref:BDL/CC/OT/GT/004/2022-23 Dt:09.06.2022
e-PROCUREMENT ABRIDGE TENDER NOTICE
Inviting Indigenous Competitive Bidding

Sl.No	Tender ID	Description	Estimate in Rs
1	64552	Extension of Officer's Hostel and Facelift of Township Entrance Gate at BDL, Bhanur	440.58 Lakhs

Please visit website https://bdltenders.abcprocure.com for further details. Bids should be submitted online only. "corrigendum if any shall be issued through our e-portal only and not in Newspapers"
Deputy General Manager (Corp Comml)

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur-760004
e-mail id : se_sicbam@yahoo.com
e - Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBB- 07/ 2022-23

1. Type of Work : System Improvement Work.
2. Total No. of Works : 01 (One) No.
3. Amount put to Tender : Rs.381.68 lakh
4. Period of Completion : 14 (Fourteen) Calendar months

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur	ACE,RBB, (BNID)-08/2022-23	381.68	From 16.06.2022, 10.00 AM to 30.06.2022, 5.00 PM

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- 02.07.2022 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. Website "www.tendersodisha.gov.in".
Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur
A-386: OIPR-32411/11/0009/2223

INSTITUTE ON MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION (IMAGE)
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA)
Siripur, BHUBANESWAR-751003, Odisha
Ph. - (0674) 2974145, E-mail : imagebbsr1999@gmail.com
No. 2559 Dated: 07.06.2022
Selection of Agency for providing Comprehensive Facility Management Services (CFMS) at IMAGE, Siripur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

IMAGE invites a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of an Agency for providing **Comprehensive Facility Management Services(CFMS) at IMAGE**, Siripur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

The RFP documents covering the details of information, eligibility criteria, selection process, and other terms & conditions can be downloaded from **(www.agri.odisha.gov.in / www.odisha.gov.in) from 08.06.2022**. The last date for submitting the RFP documents along with processing fees of Rs.11800/- (Rupees eleven thousand eight hundred) only in favour of "Director, IMAGE" payable at Bhubaneswar through regd. / speed post / courier / by hand with receipt only is **dt.12.07.2022 (3.00 PM)**. The pre-proposal meeting will be held at IMAGE, Bhubaneswar-751003, Odisha on **21.06.2022 at 11.30 AM**. The technical bids will be opened on **13.07.2022 at 04.00 PM**. The date of opening of financial bids shall be intimated later on. IMAGE reserves the right to accept/reject any/all proposals/terminate the entire selection process at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR, IMAGE
CAD-744 : OIPR-01408/11/0007/2223

ANDHRA PRADESH TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (APTS)
Tender- Request for Proposal for Selection of for investment promotion, facilitation, and Provide Services to Prepare the Concept Note and RFP for Concept cities for AP Electronics and IT Agency (APEITA)
Time schedule of various tender related events:

RFP Ref. No	ITC51-14027/1/2022-PROC-APTS
Bid calling date	09-06-2022
Pre-bid Conference	16-06-2022, 11.00 AM
Bid available from	09-06-2022 at 6.00 PM
Bid Document Fee	Rs.50,000/-
APTS Contact person	Mr. M.Sobhan Babu, Mobile: 9963029407

For the detailed tender notice, please visit our website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in and www.apts.gov.in.
Sd/- Managing Director, A.P. Technology Services Ltd.

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)
THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014
Tele: 0471-2345646, 2345650 Fax: 2345647
website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, e-mail: standera_op@kmscl.kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021618
No. KMSCL/EP/10580/2022 Dated : 08.06.2022
e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)
Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T447/2022	Modular Operation Theatres Type B, Walk in Cold Room, Arthroscopic Radio frequency Ablation System, Urea Breath Analyzer	16.06.2022 11.00 a.m.	27.06.2022 05.00 p.m.
2.	T448/2022	Fully automated immuno assay Analyzer Model D , HBA1C Analyzer, ESR Analyzer, Urine Analyzer, Binocular Microscope Type III, Automatic Tissue processor (Twin Basket Type), Embedding Station ,Tissue floatation bath	17.06.2022 11.00 a.m.	30.06.2022 05.00 p.m.
3.	T449/2022	MRI Machine 1.5T Normal Bore	21.06.2022 11.00 a.m.	04.07.2022 05.00 p.m.
4.	T450/2022	Blood Bank refrigerator 300 Litre. Vertical Plasma freezer -40 Degree (Deep Freezer -40 Degree), Platelet Agitator Incubator, Plasma Expressor, Refrigerated Centrifuge for Blood Bank, Electronic weighing scale for Blood Bank, Plasma Thawing Bath, Tube sealer, Cryo bath, Apheresis Machine, Elisa Reader and washer, Anesthesia Machine, Analytical weighing Balance, Autopsy table, Modular Cold Chamber (Model B), ICU Cot Model C, Flash Autoclave	N.A.	23.06.2022 05.00 p.m.
5.	T451(R)/2022	MRI Scanner 1.5 Tesla (Wide Bore), Bronchoscope Cryosurgery Unit, Corneal Topography, Dialysis Consumables, Prisma and Cambridge Crowding Cards and TNO Set, Neonatal Resuscitation Unit, Heel Prick Sample Collection Kit for New Born Screening Programme, Negative Pressure Wound Therapy System with Instillation device, Argon Plasma Coagulation System with Cautery, Advanced Electrosurgical Unit with Bipolar cut and Coagulation, OT Light Shadow less Ceiling Mount Double Dome, Surgeons Chair Motorized, Cervical & Lumbar traction, Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) - Type B, Stethoscope, High Speed Neuro Drill System	N.A.	20.06.2022 05.00 p.m.

State Public Sector undertakings and MSMEs registered in the State or registered outside the state satisfying the policy of Government of India are exempted from remittance of tender document cost and EMD subject to the submission of valid documents, provided all the offered products are manufactured by them. Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

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DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS UNIVERSITY BENGALURU
EXTENSION NOTIFICATION
Based on the earlier admission notification dated 18.04.2022 all the candidates applying for **5-year integrated M.Sc. Economics, 2-year M.Sc Economics, and 2-year M.Sc Financial Economics at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru** were required to mandatorily fill in the application on the University website **www.base.ac.in** after applying for CUET-NTA test. The deadline for registering on the University website is now extended from 06.06.2022 to **10.07.2022** for those who have applied for CUET- NTA UG and PG entrance exam and chosen Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru as their preference.
Dr. N.R. Bhanumurthy, Vice Chancellor — Shobha B., Registrar
Contact us: Jnana Bharathi Main Road, Nagarbhavi P.O. Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560072. Active Helpdesk : 080-29557767
Mobile : 7349333323 E-mail: info@base.ac.in
DIPR/CP/MAPUR/0816/22-23

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (West)
6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bengaluru-560 009.
IFT No.:BWSSB/EIC/CE(W)/ACE(W)-1/DCE(M)-1/TA(M)-1/920/2022-23 Dt: 06/06/2022
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through e-procurement portal only)
BWSSB, invites item rate tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the **Work of Providing and Laying of new 400 mm dia MS line in place of existing 16" water supply feeder line feeding from Hegganahalli GLR in order to facilitate Road widening by BBMP from MES Road to Golden grand apartment upto Vaishnavi (Cauvery Emporium) coming under Bhahubalinagar Service Station of AEE (NW-4) Sub division.**
Amount put to tender: **Rs.347.37 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs.5.22 Lakhs.** Last date and time for submission of tender document is: **08-07-2022 upto 15:00 hours.** Tender will be opened on **11-07-2022 after 17:00 hours.** The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the undersigned during office working hours.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (West).
DIPR/CP/AAPUR/0816/22-23
HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER
ABRIDGED NIT
The Ch. Mpl. Engineer (SWM), KMC invites Request for Proposal (RfP) for the work mentioned below (Submission online).
Tender Reference Number : KMC/SWM/RFP/MRF/DHAPA/II/21-22
Scheme/Work(s) : **Setting Up of Material Recovery Facility at Dhapa including Operation and Maintenance for the Kolkata City.** Last date and time of bid submission : **06.07.2022 upto 1.00 p.m.** The document for Request for Proposal (RfP) and other details are available on and from **11.06.2022** from **2.00 p.m.** from the website **https://wbtenders.gov.in** and **www.kmcgov.in**
240/22-23

India opposes environmental index ranking

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India has objected to a report, called the Environmental Performance Index (EPI), 2022, that places the country last on a list of 180 countries on managing climate change, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality. The report is prepared by researchers at the Yale and Columbia universities.

"High-scoring countries exhibit long-standing and continuing investments in policies that protect environmental health, preserve biodiversity and habitat, conserve natural resources, and decouple greenhouse gas emissions from economic growth," the report said. India scored low across a range of issues with "deteriorating air quality and rapidly rising greenhouse gas emissions" posing major challenges, the report said.

In a detailed rebuttal, the Union Environment Ministry said the use of "biased metrics and biased weights" caused India's low rank as it didn't account for the fact that India had one of the lowest emission trajectories.

'Govt. scheme helped poor live with dignity'

Finance Minister praises PMGKY; cites independent study

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) has reduced the probability of people consuming less food by 76% and cutting down on the usage of utilities by 75%, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Wednesday, citing an independent study.

Stressing that the government has been responsive to crises, Ms. Sitharaman cited a KPMG study done with German institution Kfw, which confirmed that the PMGKY, announced in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, yielded good results.

"Overall, the study showed that assistance under the PMGKY reduced the probability of borrowing money for 67% of all the respondents. So they lived their lives with dignity, and that is a study by an agency completely outside the government and all of us can take some comfort from it," she said. "When the government looks at targeted approach of providing assistance instead of splashing money and takes input from the ground and does so quickly, in a timely and very open manner, the impact is there for all of us to see," she said at an event to launch the Iconic Week celebrations of the Department of Economic Affairs.

Reaching the needy: A worker distributing rations under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana to a beneficiary. •PTI

Health expenditure

Ms. Sitharaman also referred to a study by an Indian School of Business professor which linked the Ayushman Bharat scheme with a 21% decline in out-of-pocket health expenditure and an 8% fall in the tendency to borrow for emergency health purposes among poor households.

Citing another study on the Emergency Credit Liquidity Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), the Minister said loans sanctioned have crossed ₹3.19 lakh crore as of March 2022, and this "handholding has kept many people afloat during the pandemic".

Up in the air: all packed but no visa to go

Extended visa processing time and unavailability of appointments a dampener

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Karan Kapur*, 41, started planning a trip to the U.S. last October to visit his cousins during his son's summer break this year, but unavailability of a visa appointment means he has to wait until February next year.

"I was given a placeholder appointment for October 30 and 31 when I applied in February this year. But last week, I received an email informing me that the appointments stood cancelled, without any information on whether I will have to apply afresh. It was impossible to get any information from the website either, but following an update from the embassy on social media, I tried again after a few days and now have visa appointments in February 2023," Mr. Kapur says over telephone.

Though there has been an uptick in demand for international travel since the government removed curbs in March, unavailability of appointment slots for visa interviews as well as the long time taken to process visa applications has meant that some of the favourite destinations in the West such as the U.S. and many European countries such as the U.K., France, Italy, Denmark and Greece are out of reach for many planning a summer break overseas after a gap of two years.

The U.S. Embassy last week announced that in-person visa appointments would resume in September, and that previously scheduled placeholders stood cancelled.

According to information sourced from tour operators, visa processing for the U.K. could take nine to 10 weeks, for Greece it could take 30 to 60 days, and for France one has to wait until the end of June if applying from cities such as Delhi.

Appointments for Germany, Italy and Iceland are not available and Denmark has stopped accepting fresh tourist visa applications.

But there are countries that don't have a long waiting period.

Switzerland takes about seven to 10 days to process visa applications, Spain takes three to four days if you apply from Mumbai and so does France.

"As a result, many are forced to postpone their departure or travel to destinations where the wait for visa is not very long," says Daniel D'Souza, president and country head, Holidays, SOTC Travel.

The visa chaos comes at a time international travel has seen a rapid growth. According to rating agency ICRA, it reached 72% of the pre-COVID level in May.

Mr. D'Souza says his company too has seen a month-on-month growth of 30% to 35% in bookings, and sales in the month of May reached 65% of the pre-pandemic levels.

"There has been an unprecedented uptick in outbound travel demand from India to many parts of the world this summer. Given the extremely high pent-up demand, this was expected with the opening of international borders, easing of travel restrictions and resumption of regular international flights from India in March 2022," says a VFS Global spokesperson.

VFS is seeing approximately 20,000 applications from India in a day, which is close to the volumes recorded during the pre-pandemic peak season.

(*name changed)

Long wait

Though international travel is bouncing back, it's a long wait to get visa to favourite tourist destinations

U.K.: Nine to 10 weeks

Greece: 30 to 60 days

Denmark: Has suspended issue of fresh visas

Norway: Two weeks

Australia: 10 days

Switzerland: Seven to 10 days

Spain and France (if applied from Mumbai): Three or four days

U.S.: In-person visa appointments to resume in September

SOURCE: TRAVEL OPERATORS

Pollution body bans coal use in Delhi

Thermal power plants are exempted

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The use of coal as fuel in industrial, domestic units will be banned in the National Capital Region (NCR) from January 2023 but the ban will not apply to thermal power plants – incidentally the largest users of coal, according to a notification on Wednesday by the Commission for Air Quality Management, which coordinates air pollution norms in Delhi and adjoining States.

"Restrictions/ban on use of coal shall come into force from October 2022 (for regions where piped natural gas infrastructure and supply is already available) and January 2023 (for other regions where the PNG supply is still not available). In full effect, use of coal as fuel shall be banned across NCR from 01.01.2023," according to the notification.

Coal dominates industrial fuels in the NCR and current estimates indicate that approximately 1.7 million tonnes of coal is consumed annually for industrial applications in NCR.

India and Vietnam sign mutual logistics agreement

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Vietnam counterpart, General Phan Van Giang, sign a joint vision statement

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

India and Vietnam on Wednesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on mutual logistics support during the ongoing visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to the Southeast Asian nation.

"The Defence Ministers signed the 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030', which will significantly enhance the scope and scale of existing defence cooperation," the Indian Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Minister Rajnath Singh with his Vietnam counterpart General Phan Van Giang at a meeting in Hanoi on Wednesday. •PTI

"In these times of increasing cooperative engagements between the defence forces of the two countries, this is a major step towards simplifying procedures for mutually beneficial logistic support and is the first such major agreement which Vietnam has signed with any country," the statement said on the logistics agreement.

"Had an excellent meeting with General Phan Van Giang," Mr. Singh said on Twitter after the meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart. "We had wide-ranging discussions on effective and practical initiatives to further expand bilateral defence engagements and regional and global issues."

"Our close defence and security cooperation is an important factor of stability in the Indo-Pacific region," Mr. Singh added.

India has signed several logistics agreements including with all Quad countries, France, Singapore and South Korea beginning with the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. in 2016.

Logistics agreements are administrative arrangements facilitating access to military facilities for exchange of fuel and provisions on mutual agreement simplifying logistical support and increasing operational turnaround of the military when operating away from India.

Both Ministers also agreed for early finalisation of $US 500 million Defence Line of Credit extended to Vietnam.

Mr. Singh also announced gifting two simulators and monetary grant towards setting up of Language and IT Lab at Air Force Officers Training School for capacity building of Vietnamese armed forces.

Mr. Singh began his official visit by paying respects to President Ho Chi Minh at his Mausoleum in Hanoi. India and Vietnam share a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership since 2016 and defence cooperation is a key pillar of this partnership. Vietnam is an important partner in India's Act East policy.

16-year-old boy kills mother over PUBG

He shoots her dead with his father's pistol; hides the body for two days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

A 16-year-old boy in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, allegedly shot dead his mother with his father's pistol after she reportedly stopped him from playing the popular online game PUBG, the police said on Wednesday.

The minor then hid the body in the house for two days and fabricated a story before confessing to the crime, the police said.

PUBG is an online, multiplayer shooting game.

While there had been constant friction between the boy and his mother over his gaming addiction, they had a strained relationship in general as the boy often felt curtailed by his mother, a senior police officer said.

The argument over PUBG served as the "final nail", Qasim Abidi, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, East Lucknow, told *The Hindu*. The incident happened on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday.

The boy lived with his mother and 10-year-old sister. The father is in the Army and is posted in Asansol, West Bengal. When the police first reached the house to investigate the murder, the boy told them that an electrician who had come to their house for wiring work shot dead his mother after an argument. However, since the body had decomposed to some extent, the police suspected that there was more to the story. There were also no signs of forced entry into the house, the police said.

The boy killed her in a "fit of anger accumulating over the past few months or even years", Mr. Abidi said.

NHAI's road-laying feat enters Guinness

75-km road laid continuously in Maharashtra in 105 hours and 33 minutes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The National Highway Authority of India has entered the Guinness World Records for the longest continuously laid bituminous lane of 75 km in 105 hours and 33 minutes on the National Highway between Amravati and Akola districts in Maharashtra.

Mentioning the record, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday said the project was implemented by 720 workers, including a team of independent consultants, who worked day and night. The total length of the 75 km of single lane continuous bituminous concrete road is equivalent to 37.5 km of a two-lane paved shoulder road and the work started at 7.27 a.m. on June 3 and was completed at 5 p.m. on June 7, the Minister said in a video message.

In one shot: Part of the 75-km bituminous single-lane road laid in 105 hours, 33 minutes. •ANI

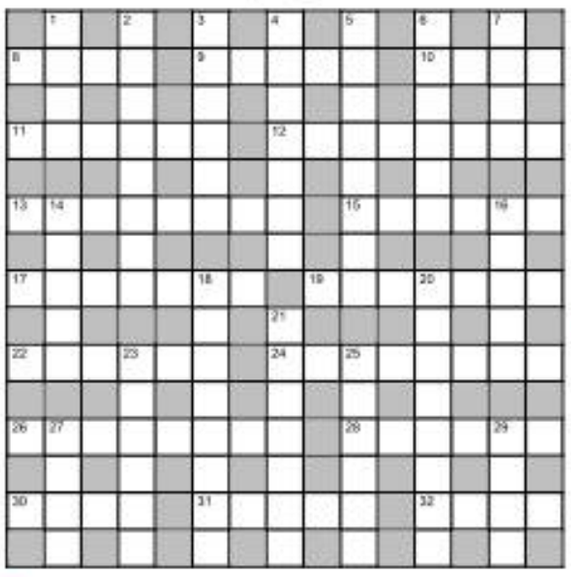
The previous Guinness World Record for the longest continuously laid bituminous was for building 25.275 km of road that was achieved in Doha, Qatar, in February 2019 and that task was completed in 10 days, Mr. Gadkari said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13578

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



ACROSS

8 That lady has love for the leading male actor (4)
9 Join United Nations wearing woven tie (5)
10 Suspend ethnic Chinese girl (4)
11 Pop and mom give shelter to North American in country (6)
12 Returned can containing unexpired and number one cooking medium (5,3)
13 Hottest or coldest after commencement of summer precipitation? (8)
15 Cooling medical device and ipecac preparation (3,3)
17 Obliquely enquire with adult at new church (7)
19 American soldier eats cooked conch dumpling (7)
22 Young lady in Amsterdam self-heals to some extent (6)
24 Initially, clinic doctor admitted setter in air-conditioned ward for casualty (8)
26 Note: Butter is used initially in coffee-flavoured dessert (8)
28 Crush cane around time before end of summer to get sweet stuff (6)
30 You and I consume Indian drink (4)
31 La Paz building shopping centre (5)
32 Language spoken in Gopalpur, Durgapur (4)

DOWN

1 Religious scripture's very elaborate discourse appears in the beginning (4)
2 Bread that is free of charge accompanied by Italian alcohol, for starters (8)
3 Dog consumed priest (6)
4 Roving compatriots leaving camp to make rice dish (7)
5 Plead, "It's small, charged particle" (8)
6 It's said to bring a smile to your face, perhaps (6)
7 Against a new note (4)
14 Tapas may be made from ingredients of this food (5)
16 Pale tennis champion gets nervous at first (5)
18 By mistake, police confiscate aluminium musical instrument (8)
20 Medical staff wrongly accused around second of July (8)
21 South Africa has incomplete picture painted on a wall with one Japanese warrior (7)
23 Joining line for English mariners (6)
25 Painting material stored in Etruscan vase (6)
27 Biscuit cut away and thrown for bird (4)
29 Assistant? Bad idea! (4)

SUDOKU

	5			6				
		6	4	5	3			
			8		7	6	2	
			9				4	3
	3						7	
2	4				6			
	8	5	6		9			
			3	1	5	8		
				4			9	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13577

H	S	S	O	S	M	D		
TANK	L	O	F	T	Y	A	V	I	D
T	E	O	F	C	G	M		
FELLOW	S	E	X	A	M	P	L	E	S
E	E	N	M	I				
BETTERED	O	O	E	S	S	A		
N	O	S	R	H				
PENNAME	M	E	R	M	A	I	D	
M	E	C	O	V				
WASHES	H	O	N	O	U	R	A	S
I	S	E	A	R				
PLANYAIN	B	A	N	I	S	H		
A	D	G	N	B	F	I		
BITE	E	R	A	S	E	U	P	T	O
R	R	S	I	D	L	E		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	2	1	6	9	4	7	5	8
6	4	9	7	5	8	3	2	1
8	7	5	2	1	3	6	9	4
2	9	8	1	6	5	4	7	3
1	6	4	3	7	9	5	8	2
7	5	3	8	4	2	9	1	6
4	8	7	9	2	6	1	3	5
9	3	6	5	8	1	2	4	7
5	1	2	4	3	7	8	6	9

FAITH

Bhakti, jnana, vairagya

In spiritual parlance, jnana and ajnana are compared to light and darkness. Just as light dispels darkness, with the rise of jnana, ajnana disappears. Sastras show that jnana is always present as the essence of atma swaroopa in every being. But this jnana is hidden under layers of ajnana. Ajnana is lack of knowledge of God and of the atma swaroopa. But the path of bhakti helps one to know God and remain in His loving service. Bhakti takes the place of jnana in dispelling ajnana and makes one eligible for God realisation, pointed out Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse.

In the Padma Purana, the greatness of the Bhagavata Purana and its role in instilling bhakti is explained in figurative terms. Bhakti is shown as a young mother with her two children, Jnana and Vairagya who are old and listless. She is unable to rouse them from this state. Narada advises Bhakti to listen to Bhagavata Saptaham instruction by Sanat Kumaras. As the instruction is in progress, Jnana and Vairagya are revived and regain their youth and vitality. It is symbolic of how listening to tales of devotion and the various kinds of bhakti that have been practised by devotees can bring about an internal change in people. With the aid of Bhakti, people are always in close communion with God. This kind of constant meditation on God and His auspicious qualities leads them to realise God. The omniscient God is always responsive to their devotion.

In the present times, the Bhagavata Purana has inspired Krishna bhakti and continues to give relief from sorrow to many. When love to God is intense, attachment to worldly concerns slowly fade away. What better way to dispel the ajnana in us than by praying to God to enter our heart and make Him remain there?

Russia backs Ukraine grain exports plan

Ankara talks propose creation of a safe corridor in the Black Sea, but Moscow wants sanctions relief

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ANKARA

Russia and Turkey on Wednesday voiced support for the creation of a safe maritime corridor in the Black Sea so Ukraine can export grain to global markets amid an escalating world food crisis. A Turkish Minister said the move should also be accompanied by the easing of Western sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu hosted his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Ankara for discussions focused on a UN proposal to free Ukraine's Black Sea ports and allow some 22 million tonnes of grain sitting in silos to be shipped out.

Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but the war and a Russian blockade of its ports have halted much of that flow, endangering food supplies to many developing countries. Many of those ports are now also heavily mined.

New equation: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov with his Turkish counterpart, Mevlut Cavusoglu, on Wednesday. • AFP

Ukraine's government was not represented at the Ankara meeting but has expressed concerns that removing mines from its ports to facilitate grain exports could allow Russia to attack its southern coast.

Mr. Lavrov promised that Russia would not "abuse" its naval advantage if Ukraine's ports were demined and would "take all necessary steps to ensure that the ships can leave there freely." Both Russia and Turkey would also benefit from the export plan. The same corridor would also allow Russia to export food and fertilizer. Turkey would facilitate and protect the transport of the grain in the Black Sea, Turkish officials say.

"We find this plan reasonable and see it as a feasible one," Mr. Cavusoglu told a joint news conference with Mr. Lavrov. The scheme, however, would require negotiation between Moscow and Kyiv, he added.

The Turkish Minister also backed easing Western sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine if it participates in the UN plan, saying that seemed "quite legitimate".

"If the whole world is in need of the products to be exported by Ukraine and the Russian Federation, then a method needs to be established," he said, adding that he hoped "technical preparations" could be made "as soon as possible".

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed the creation of a safe sea corridor last week, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday. It also called for security guarantees, such as a supply of weapons to defend against maritime threats and the participation of third-country naval forces.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the Russian military would need to check commercial ships taking the grain to make sure they don't carry weapons. He added that after they are loaded with grain, Russia would help escort the ships to international waters. Turkish Defence Ministry said on Tuesday that technical details were still being worked out.

Willing to work with India to help Sri Lanka, says China

New Delhi has made great efforts to help Colombo: Beijing

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

"Recognising" the Indian government's "great efforts" in supporting Sri Lanka, China on Wednesday expressed willingness to work with India and the international community to help Sri Lanka tide over its crushing economic crisis.

Across the sea: A cargo ship carrying humanitarian aid from India to Sri Lanka arriving at a port in Colombo. • FILE PHOTO

In a media briefing held in Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian outlined the Chinese government's recent humanitarian assistance totalling 500 million RMB (approximately $73 million) to Sri Lanka. "We also noted the Indian government made great efforts in this aspect. We recognise that, and we are willing to work with India and other members of the international community to help Sri Lanka and other countries with difficulties to help these developing countries to get through this situation," he said.

China's official acknowledgement of Indian assistance to Sri Lanka – totalling $3.5 billion this year by way of currency swaps, loan deferments, and credit lines – is significant, coming amid a well-known geopolitical contest between the two powers in Sri Lanka. Earlier this year, China expressed disappointment over Colombo replacing a proposed Chinese energy project in three islands off the northern Jaffna peninsula with an Indian project.

"Interrupting a project won through a competitive bidding process [backed by the Asian Development Bank] does not send out a good message for foreign investors looking at Sri Lanka," the Chinese Ambassador in Colombo told the media in March. Echoing the sentiment on Wednesday, the Chinese official observed: "We believe Sri Lanka will also work actively to protect the legitimate rights and interests of foreign investors and partners, and also uphold the stability and credibility of its financing and business environment."

China is one of Sri Lanka's top two bilateral creditors, along with Japan. Chinese loans, however, make up about 10% of the island's external debt that is dominated by market borrowings. In April 2022, Sri Lanka decided to pre-emptively default on all its foreign debt of about $50 billion to cope with a foreign exchange crunch that left the country with no dollars to pay for even essential imports.

Debt default

Following Colombo's announcement on its debt default, Chinese institutions "immediately had discussions with Sri Lankan side to properly resolve the debts", Mr. Zhao said, expressing hope that "Sri Lanka will work actively with China to discuss the appropriate settlement". Further, China "stands ready to work with relevant countries and international financial institutions to continuously help Sri Lanka in dealing with the current circumstances and easing its debt burden to achieve sustainable development", the official said, amid speculation in Colombo over China's possible response to a debt restructure programme prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Colombo has sought the IMF's help on debt restructuring and economic revival. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who spoke to the IMF chief on Tuesday, urged the Fund's team to visit Sri Lanka "as soon as possible" to finalise the staff-level agreement, his office said.

Sri Lanka has also sought help from China and Japan. As part of its assistance during the pandemic, China extended $2.8 billion in assistance to Sri Lanka. But Colombo has raised concern over not being able to access the swap, that is contingent on Colombo showing adequate foreign reserves for three months.

"We have not had foreign exchange reserves for three months since the loan was taken...We have requested the Chinese government to consider removing that condition from the agreement that has been signed with them," Mr. Wickremesinghe told Sri Lanka Parliament on Wednesday.

Reward for those flagging 'security' threats in China

Cash prize of up to $15,000 on offer

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

China will offer citizens as much as $15,000 in cash for reporting threats to "national security", state media reported, in Beijing's latest move to whip up fears of external foes.

Citizens offering information that leads to the discovery of "acts endangering national security" could be rewarded as much as 1,00,000 yuan, depending on their role in preventing or solving a case, according to the guidelines.

They may also be given "rewards in spirit," the reports said on Tuesday, including in the form of certificates.

The Chinese government has for years offered monetary rewards for information on security breaches, but a new guideline issued this week by the Ministry of State Security seeks to standardise the practice, the state-owned *Legal Daily* reported.

The measure is "conducive to fully mobilising the enthusiasm of the general public to support and assist in national security work, widely rallying the hearts, morale, wisdom and strength of the people," a ministry official said.

Severodonetsk now mostly under Russians: Governor

Lysychansk is suffering enormous destruction, he says

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

The key eastern Ukraine city of Severodonetsk is now "largely" under Russian control after fierce fighting, while its twin city of Lysychansk is suffering enormous destruction, the region's governor said on Wednesday.

Moscow's forces "control a large part of Severodonetsk. The industrial zone is still ours, there are no Russians there. The fighting is only going on in the streets inside the city", Sergei Gaidai, governor of the Lugansk region, said on Telegram.

"The Russians are shooting at everything, they are destroying all the houses in Severodonetsk, with tanks, artillery. They are shooting at the industrial zone too, but the fighting is going on, our guys are resisting in the streets," he added.

Focus of offensive

The strategic city has become the focus of Russia's offensive as it seeks to seize an eastern swathe of Ukraine, after being repelled from the capital Kyiv and other parts of the country.

The cities of Severodonetsk and Lysychansk, which are separated by a river, were the last areas still under Ukrainian control in Lugansk.

Ukrainian sway

Lysychansk remains fully under the control of the Ukrainian army but is under "powerful and chaotic" shelling, Mr. Gaidai said, accusing Russian forces of deliberately targeting hospitals and humanitarian aid distribution centres.

"The destruction is enormous."

U.S. set to reconsider China tariffs

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The United States is considering lifting some of the punitive Trump-era tariffs imposed on China in an effort to ease surging inflation, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Wednesday.

U.S. tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese imports will begin to expire in July, unless renewed, and President Joe Biden has faced growing calls to get rid of the so-called "Section 301" duties to help combat the highest inflation in over four decades.

Ms. Yellen told lawmakers the administration would provide more information "in coming weeks" on the tariff plans.

Ms. Yellen said while Beijing was "guilty of unfair trade practices", the measures "really weren't designed to serve our strategic interests".

Driver runs over Berlin school group, kills one

Probe on to find out if it was deliberate

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN

A man drove a car into a German school group standing in a popular Berlin shopping district on Wednesday, killing a teacher and seriously injuring nine persons, authorities said.

The man drove into people on a street corner around 10.30 a.m. before getting the car back on the road and then crashing into a shop window around a block further on, police spokesman Thilo Cablitz said.

Berlin's top security official, Iris Spranger, said the woman killed was a teacher on a school trip with students from the central German state of Hesse.

Six persons sustained life-threatening injuries and another three were seriously injured, fire service spokesman Adrian Wentzel. Police said more than a dozen people were injured.

Investigators near the car that smashed into a store in Berlin on Wednesday.

The driver was apparently detained by passers-by and then arrested swiftly by a police officer who was near the scene, Mr. Cablitz said. He said police are trying to determine whether the man deliberately drove into pedestrians or whether it was an accident, possibly caused by a medical emergency.

Police later tweeted that the driver was a 29-year-old German-Armenian who lived in Berlin.

U.K. to charge Weinstein for assault

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

British prosecutors said on Wednesday they have authorised the police to charge ex-film producer Harvey Weinstein with two counts of indecent assault against a woman in London in 1996.

The Crown Prosecution Service said that "charges have been authorised" against Weinstein, 70, following a review of evidence. The police said the alleged offences against the woman, now in her 50s, took place during July and August 1996.

After revelations about Weinstein emerged in 2017, British police said they were investigating multiple allegations of sexual assault that took place between the 1980s and 2015.

Weinstein is serving a 23-year sentence for rape after his 2020 conviction in New York for offences against two women.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Byatarayanapura Division, No. 2152/20,
Defence Colony, BWSSB Tank Road, Sahakarnagara,
BBMP Office, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-560092

No. EE/BTP/BBMP/E-PMT/07/2022-23 Date: 07.06.2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System)
SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GoK E-Procurement Portal Only)

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) invites Request for Porposal from interested Firms/Organization those who have done similar type of work as Consultant for Supervision, Project Management and Quality control for the project for the below works through E-procurement system by the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, Yelahanka Zone, Bangalore-560 092.

The Executive Engineer (Byatarayanapura Division), Yelahanka Zone, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike KPWD/Electrical/CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highways or any State Government Organization for the DPR of work detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for the works given in the table through GoK E-Procurement portal (viz., http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to tenderers to qualify for award of the contract as per standard RFP document and Tender document. Tender document shall have to valid for 90 days beyond the validity of the tender.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Approximate Value of Work (Rs in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Consultancy service for detailed project report, field survey, general report, basic drawing, technical report, detailed drawing, detailed cost estimate for **Package No. 07 (Consists of 7 works)**	10.00	50,000

Eligibility : As per E-Procurement Portal. **Period of Completion :** 30 Days.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the E-Procurement portal of The Government of Karnataka from 09.06.2022. **(2)** Tenders must be submitted online through E-Procurement portal on or before 16:00 hours on 15.06.2022 and the opening of tenders will be as per the E-Procurement portal guidelines. **(3)** Date of Pre bid meeting at Office of the Executive Engineer (Byatarayanapura Division) on 10.06.2022 at 16:00 hrs. **(4)** Technical bids will be opened on the website https://eproc.karanataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer (Byatarayanapura Division) on 17.06.2022 at 11.00 hrs. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://eproc. karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Byatarayanapura Division, Yelahanka Zone.

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
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Office of the DIRECTOR OF PRINTING, STATIONERY PUBLICATIONS,
R.V. College Post, 8th Mile, Mysore Road,
Bengaluru - 560 059. Ph: 080-28484515 / 28484518

No: DPS13PUR(B)2022-23/Maplitho Date: 07-06-2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement)

Online Tenders are invited for the **Supply of Maplitho Printing Paper** under rate contract. Estimated Total Value of the Tender is about **Rs. 440.00 Lakhs** & total EMD is **Rs. 22.00 Lakhs.** Pre-bid meeting shall be on **22.06.2022, 11.30 AM &** Last date for Submission of Tender : **07.07.2022, 17:30 hrs.** For details please visit website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For any further clarifications the above office may be contacted.

DIPR/CP/820/MAA/2022-23 **Sd/- Director**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.SEE/Tr(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-35/22-23/935-37 Dated : 07.06.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites bid against bid Enq.No. **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/RepairofTfr/EPR-218/CALL-7 Dated: 07.06.2022** for Dismantling, transportation (To & fro), Repair of Faulty power transformer, testing, assembling, erection and commissioning of repaired power transformer of rating 8MVA, 66/11kV, Ashoka make, Sl No.5031, lying at 66/11Kv **Hullenahalli** Substation in TL&SS, Division, KPTCL, Nelamangala on **Total Turnkey Basis on Percentage Tender Basis.** Amount put to tender **Rs.30,22,432/-** and **EMD Rs.30,224/-**
The bid will be received through e-procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the enquiry can be obtained by logging onto KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on the hyperlink 'e-procurement' on or after **09.06.2022** at **16:30hrs.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Transmission (M), Ramanagara Circle, KPTCL,
220/66/11kV Vrushabhavati Valley Station,
Mysuru Road, Bengaluru-560026

ONGC ऑयल एण्ड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Offshore Engineering Services, ONGC Mumbai invites **Expression of Interest (EOI)** from prospective bidders for "Protective Coating of Well Head Platforms Project-IV (PCWPP-IV)". EOI meet shall be held on Thursday, **16th June, 2022 from 14:30 hrs,** at the 4th floor Conference Hall, ONGC 11 high Building, Bandra-Sion Link Road, Mumbai 400017. Details of EOI are available for viewing and downloading from the website: **https://tenders.ongc.co.in**

Pls. see website : https://tenders.ongc.co.in & https://etender.ongc.co.in

Greater Chennai Corporation
Storm Water Drain Department

S.W.D.C.No.B3/0616/2022

E- Short Re Tenders are invited for the following work in two cover as detailed below.

Project Management Consultancy (PMC) Services for the Work of Demolition and Reconstruction of Old drain / New Construction of Storm Water Drain in various locations in Chennai city in Zone- 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,13 &15 under various schemes. Work value Rs.482.26 crores, EMD. Rs.11,60,000/-

1. Tender Last Date & Time of Submission 15.06.2022 upto 3.00 PM
2. Bidding documents are available online on www.tntenders.gov.in
3. Tender open date & time 16.06.2022 at 3.30 PM

DIPR /2706/ Tender / 2022 Superintending Engineer / SWDD

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 03-CECNMS-2022-E-262776 Dated: 31.05.2022
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 04-CECNMS-2022-E-262798 Dated: 31.05.2022
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 05-CECNMS-2022-E-262809 Dated: 01.06.2022

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The Tenderers / Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

NAME OF THE WORK			
MRTS Phase II Extension - Velachery to St.Thomas Mount - Proposed construction of super structure in between Pier Nos. 173 & 174 (Track span) with COMPOSITE STEEL GIRDER of span 51.08m (skew) & 32.47m (Straight) and miscellaneous work.			
Gauge Conversion in Madurai - Bodinayakkanur Section (i) Providing Level crossing approach roads in TE-BDNK section (ii) Providing watering Hydrant pipes in BDNK & TE stations (iii) Construction of runing room for Drivers and Guards and outpost building for Government Railway Police (iv) Proposed construction of subways in lieu of LC No.82 & 86 in TE-BDNK section and other miscellaneous works.			
MAS-GDR section - Proposed construction of ROB in lieu of LC 28 at Km. KOKG/22-24 consisting of 1x36.0m clear span with Bow string steel girder and 2x14.0m PSC girder (TWO PACKET SYSTEM)			
Cash Value (₹)	**Earnest Money Deposit (₹)**	**Period of Completion in Months**	**Closing Date @ 15.30 hrs.**
94444573.43	622200	5	23.06.2022
97786862.38	638900	4	23.06.2022
105930826.07	679700	15	27.06.2022

For further details, please refer to website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.

Chief Engineer (Construction), Egmore, Chennai - 600 008

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BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD-Mahadevapura Zone, BBMP, 9th Floor, Jayanagar Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011.

No.EE/SWD/MDP/TEND/02/2022-23 Date: 08.06.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, SWD - Mahadevapura Zone, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the work detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Excavation of earthen drain for Vulnerable length of storm water drains in K.R. Pura Constituency of Mahadevapura Zone.	89.10	1,78,200/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal. **2)** Pre-bid Meeting : **14.06.2022 at 16.00 Hrs. 3)** Last date for receipt of tenders : **16.06.2022 upto 16:00 Hrs. 4)** Date of opening of technical bid: **17.06.2022 at 16.30 Hrs.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc. karnataka.gov.in** or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, SWD - Mahadevapura Zone.

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

MARKET WATCH

	08-06-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	54,892	-0.39
US Dollar	77.68	0.12
Gold	50,818	0.16
Brent oil	122.05	0.98

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	728.60	-5.95
Apollo Hosp	3636.20	26.90
Asian Paints	2705.20	-39.50
Axis Bank	658.60	-7.25
Bajaj Auto	3794.15	-39.95
Bajaj Finserv	12465.00	126.30
Bajaj Finance	5854.30	75.70
Bharti Airtel	663.30	-22.00
BPCL	323.90	3.65
Britannia Ind	3361.50	-21.95
Cipla	962.95	-9.80
Coal India	197.65	0.10
Divis Lab	3495.30	-5.95
Dr Reddys Lab	4199.15	55.20
Eicher Motors	2649.15	1.25
Grasim Ind	1328.75	2.10
HCL Tech	1030.20	7.30
HDFC	2258.65	-0.85
HDFC Bank	1367.40	4.80
HDFC Life	599.95	-5.35
Hero MotoCorp	2585.95	15.10
Hindalco	403.50	-0.70
Hind Unilever	2197.05	-14.55
ICICI Bank	729.50	-5.75
Indusind Bank	913.70	-10.00
Infosys	1500.00	-6.70
ITC	267.90	-6.00
JSW Steel	576.15	4.05
Kotak Bank	1845.50	-12.65
L&T	1584.55	-4.90
M&M	1045.00	2.45
Maruti Suzuki	7892.45	83.05
Nestle India Ltd.	16723.75	-23.15
NTPC	157.05	-0.20
ONGC	163.40	1.55
PowerGrid Corp	224.55	-0.45
Reliance Ind	2724.05	-48.70
SBI Life	1136.05	1.75
State Bank	471.30	7.90
Shree Cement	19583.75	-201.65
Sun Pharma	847.25	-1.00
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	757.15	0.55
Tata Motors	435.65	-0.20
Tata Steel	1086.75	18.25
TCS	3404.15	41.45
Tech Mahindra	1124.20	-6.10
Titan	2128.85	28.05
UltraTech Cement	5531.85	-23.35
UPL	735.15	-11.05
Wipro	470.40	2.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 08

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	77.53	77.85
Euro	83.21	83.56
British Pound	97.28	97.69
Japanese Yen (100)	57.82	58.06
Chinese Yuan	11.59	11.65
Swiss Franc	79.39	79.73
Singapore Dollar	56.35	56.60
Canadian Dollar	61.81	62.07
Malaysian Ringitt	17.63	17.72
Australian Dollar	55.83	56.06

Source:Indian Bank

Indian economy well placed to deal with challenges, says Das

Rupee among better-performing currencies in emerging markets: RBI Governor

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday said the Indian economy was well placed to deal with current challenges.

"Indian economy has remained resilient and it is well placed to deal with the challenges emanating from the geopolitical developments," Mr. Das said, while replying to a question on where India stood vis-a-vis the global economy at the post-policy press briefing.

"The banking sector remains resilient and strong. Overall, the macroeconomic numbers also broadly look alright," the RBI chief added. He said despite the depreciation of the Indian rupee, so far it had been among the better-performing currencies in its peer group in emerging market nations and others.

No pitfalls: RBI expects the CAD to remain at a sustainable level, says Governor Shaktikanta Das. • REUTERS

"The fiscal deficit [target] which was there in the Budget for the last year has been achieved. So, overall Indian economy continues to be in a resilient position. The recovery is getting traction and it is reflected in the sense that capacity utilisation has improved. The disbursal of bank credit is also picking up. Rural and urban demand are also showing signs of further improvement and that is how we stand today."

Recently, JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon had speaking about the global economy reportedly said that a 'hurricane is right out there down the road coming our way'. And Tesla CEO Elon Musk had spoken of a "super bad feeling" about the economy, while announcing job cuts at the electric car firm.

Mr. Das added that the RBI expected the current account deficit to remain at a sustainable level and that normal flows would enable "the financing" of the deficit.

(With PTI inputs)

'Benchmark rate may exceed pre-pandemic level by March'

MPC worried about broad-based inflation, says economist

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank may deliver more rate increases during the current fiscal and take key policy rates to well above pre-pandemic levels, said economists citing the aggressive wording of the monetary policy statement around taming inflation.

Earlier in the day, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) delivered a 50-basis point (bps) increase in the key policy rate to 4.9% but left the cash reserve ratio unchanged.

'Aggressive tone'

Describing the monetary policy announcement as aggressive and moving beyond just front-loading interest rate increases, HDFC Bank chief economist Abheek Barua said the central bank seemed far more concerned about inflation now, which is reflected in the upward revision in its inflation forecast by 100 bps to 6.7% while remaining relatively more sanguine on growth impulses.

> **Expect rally in bond yields to be short-lived amid high oil prices and rising global yields**
>
> ABHEEK BARUA
> HDFC Bank chief economist

The MPC was concerned about the broad-based nature of the rise in inflation and the risk of the second-round impact on inflation expectations, Mr. Barua said. Therefore, the policy rate was likely to be raised well beyond the pre-pandemic level, close to 6% by the fiscal year-end, he added. Mr. Barua also said he expected the rally in bond yields to be short-lived amid elevated oil prices and rising global yields.

India Ratings principal economist Sunil Kumar Sinha said though rate actions were expected to balance the inflation-growth dynamics, the MPC had stated it would remain focussed on the withdrawal of accommodation, as system liquidity continued to be high with daily absorption under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility averaging ₹5.5 lakh crore during May 4-31.

Builders see rate increase hitting housing demand

'Affordable segment may be impacted'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The RBI's decision to raise the benchmark interest rate will make home loans costlier and affect housing sales, especially in the affordable and mid-income segments, according to property consultants.

Property consultancy firms Anarock, Knight Frank India, JLL India, Colliers India, India Sotheby's International Realty and Investors Clinic said the RBI's move was on expected lines.

"The rate hike will push up home loan interest rates," said Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri. "Rates would [however] remain lower than during the 2008 financial crisis when they exceeded 12%, he added.

Colliers India CEO Ramesh Nair advised homebuyers to take advantage of the prevailing home loan rates, with housing prices expected to rise.

"Rising interest rate, along with elevated... construction cost and product price pressures" could hit real estate buyer's sentiment, said Knight Frank India CMD Shishir Baijal.

RBI raises limit on housing loans by cooperative banks

Increase in housing prices, need for larger loans spur move

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday raised the existing limits on individual housing loans provided by cooperative banks, taking into account the rise in home prices since the limits were last revised and considering borrowers' needs for larger loans.

The limits for tier I / tier 2 urban cooperative banks (UCBs) were doubled from ₹30 lakh/ ₹70 lakh to ₹60 lakh/ ₹140 lakh, respectively, the RBI said. For rural cooperative banks (RCBs) with assessed net worth less than ₹100 crore, the limits were raised from ₹20 lakh to ₹50 lakh; and for the rest, it was

revised from ₹30 lakh to ₹75 lakh. The limits were last revised in 2011 for UCBs and in 2009 for RCBs.

Given the growing need for affordable housing and to realise their potential in providing credit facilities to the housing sector, the RBI decided to allow State cooperative banks (StCBs) and district central cooperative banks (DCCBs) to extend finance to commercial real estate – residential housing within the existing aggregate housing finance limit of 5% of their total assets.

'UCBs at your doorstep'

The RBI also permitted UCBs to offer doorstep banking.

"In order to attain harmonisation of regulatory framework across regulated entities and to provide convenience of banking services to customers at their doorstep, it has been decided to permit UCBs to extend doorstep banking services to their customers on par with scheduled commercial banks," the RBI said in a regulatory statement.

'Authorities acting to curb inflation, bolster growth'

Rupee, fiscal balance also priority: Seth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Monetary and fiscal authorities are taking steps to moderate inflation and push growth, Department of Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said on Wednesday.

His comments came in the backdrop of the RBI increasing the key interest rate by 50 basis points with an aim to tame inflation.

"There are domestic challenges and larger ones are there in the global scenario. Whatever it takes for monetary and fiscal authorities, those actions are being taken. We (are working) to moderate the inflation (and) at the same time keep the growth efforts as earlier," Mr. Seth told reporters.

Mr. Seth added that the

Ajay Seth

authorities were also working on the management of the rupee and retaining the fiscal balance.

"There cannot be any copybook solution. As new information emerge, they are analysed and whatever it takes to meet those challenges, those measures will be taken," he added.

IN BRIEF

Funskool to make Abalone game in India

CHENNAI

MRF's Funskool India has acquired rights from French firm Asmodee to manufacture and distribute its popular board game Abalone in India.

"India being a crucial market for Asmodee, we envisage Abalone emerging as a sought-after game in India through this partnership," said Alexia Ebner, head, International Sales, Asmodee.

Repose Mattress plans new unit in Bhubaneswar

CHENNAI

Repose Mattress Pvt. Ltd. said it plans to set up a new factory in Bhubaneswar and tap the northern region.

"Currently, Repose is catering primarily to the needs of the southern markets," said CMO V. Balaji. "We have factories in Coimbatore, Pune and Meerut. Now, Repose is expanding into the northern region to cover Delhi, Punjab and Haryana by establishing 200 dealers in those States," Mr. Balaji added.

Ramco Cements raises price by ₹20-₹25 a bag

'Price rise effective June in South'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Ramco Cements has announced a price increase of ₹20-₹25 per bag in the South effective this month.

In an analysts' call, the company officials said the price increase was being effected in view of the rise in fuel prices. However, its sustainability needed to be watched, they added.

During April and May, the demand was robust, as against the low base due to lockdowns last year. The demand had shown improvement as infrastructure projects had picked up in the recent months.

Overall, the industry growth could be at 10% and the company said it would likely achieve a volume growth of 15% in FY23. The company said it was planning to become net debt-free by FY26, provided no major capex was planned.

As of FY22, Ramco Cements' debt stood at ₹3,800 crore and plans were on to repay about ₹500 crore during the current fiscal.

On expansion, the company said it was planning to install one more unit of 1-1.5 mtpa grinding capacity in Karnataka at a capex of ₹300-₹350 crore. Land acquisition for the same was in process. Besides, the company had planned a capex of ₹1,200-₹1,300 crore over the next two years.

Recently, Ramco Cements had won the bid for a limestone mine in Karnataka at a 25% premium of the base price, which it said was lower than the recent bids.

'Sugar exports touch high of 8.6 MT till May'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Sugar exports from India, the world's largest producer and the second-biggest exporter of the sweetener, touched a record 8.6 million tonnes (MT) till May of the ongoing 2021-22 marketing year ending September, according to the latest data from industry body ISMA on Wednesday.

The country had exported 7 million tonnes in the 2020-21 marketing year, while domestic production had stood at 31.19 million tonnes in the period. Last month, the Centre capped sugar exports at 10 million tonnes to ensure adequate domestic supply and check prices during the festival season. However, cooperatives have sought raising the cap by 1 million tonnes.

Rane Holdings optimistic about demand in FY23

'We are working across the supply chain'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

After weathering two waves of COVID-19 in FY22, Rane Holdings said it was optimistic about the demand environment in FY23 and working across the supply chain to mitigate challenges.

"Though we are seeing headwinds in global economy and supply chain challenges, we remain optimistic about the demand environment in FY23," chairman L. Ganesh said in the 86th annual report.

During FY22, the group had posted its highest ever total revenue of ₹5,440 crore, a 31% increase from the year-earlier period.

Rane Engine Valve Ltd. (REVL) is focusing on growing its electric vehicle insulation business, including

L. Ganesh • BIJOY GHOSH

non-auto business. Non-auto business grew 42% and contributed to 25% of REVL's sales. With the increase in volumes, the company is hopeful of achieving a full turnaround and break even in FY23. The steering and light metal castings business of Rane (Madras) Ltd. had a strong order book pipeline, Mr. Ganesh said.

India said to soon allow wheat exports of 1.2 MT

'1.7 MT at ports; rains may hit quality'

REUTERS
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

India could soon allow traders to ship out about 1.2 million tonnes (MT) of wheat as it sought to clear cargoes stuck at ports since last month's sudden ban of exports of the grain, government and trade sources said on Wednesday.

But even after New Delhi's permission to export that much, about 500,000 tonnes of wheat could remain sitting at ports, as some traders had failed to secure export permits, the sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

New Delhi banned wheat exports in a surprise move on May 14, but said it would allow overseas shipments backed by already-issued letters of credit (LCs) and to

countries that request supplies "to meet their food security needs". Based on LCs issued before May 14, the government would issue registration certificates required for wheat exports, said two senior government officials who declined to be named.

Following the export ban, at least 1.7 million tonnes were still lying at ports, raising quality concerns due to looming monsoon rains.

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Mithali calls time on illustrious career

The 39-year-old bids adieu to all forms of international cricket via social media announcement

V. V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Mithali Raj, one of India's cricketing greats, announced her retirement from international cricket on Wednesday.

The 39-year-old, who made the announcement on Twitter, said that she felt it was the right time to quit as the team is in the "capable hands of some very talented young players." "The future of Indian cricket is bright," she added.

"I would like to thank the BCCI and Jay Shah sir (BCCI secretary) for the support I have received, first as a player and then as captain of the Indian women's team," Mithali, who was travelling, said in the statement.

An honour

"It was an honour to have led the team for so many years. It definitely shaped me as a person and hopefully helped shape Indian women's cricket as well," said the star batter.

"This journey may have ended but another one beckons as I would love to stay involved in the game and contribute to the growth of women's cricket in India and the world over," Mithali said.

"I would like to make a special mention to all my fans, thank you for all your love and support," Mithali wrote.

R.S.R. Murthy, mentor and coach of Mithali, said she had discussed her retirement plans with him last week.

"She was feeling the time has come and I am glad that she is leaving the game on a high. I believe she still has some years of cricket in her," Murthy told *The Hindu*.

The legendary journey of Mithali Raj

Mithali had the longest ODI career in history (man or woman)

Mithali	Tendulkar
22 years **274 days** (June 26, 1999 to March 27, 2022)	**22** years **91 days** (Dec. 18, 1989 to March 18, 2012)

1 First woman to play for more than two decades in ODIs

- Only Indian skipper - male or female - to have taken the side to the summit clash of two 50-over World Cups (2005 and 2017)
- The only woman to make more than 6000 runs in ODIs (Edwards, Eng, 5992). The Indian finished with a tally of 7805

2 Mithali (232) and Jhulan (201) are the only woman players to have figured in more than 200 ODIs

17 Her 50-plus scores in women's T20Is is the third-best after Bates (NZ, 22) and Taylor (WI, 21)

50.68 Her ODI average is the second-best among women who have played 100 or more innings (Lanning, Aus: 53.13 avg. in 100 inns)

70 The number of visits to the crease to reach 2000 T20I runs, the second-fastest woman behind West Indies' Taylor (68)

71 She has the most 50-plus scores in women's ODIs (64 50s, 7 100s). Edwards, with 55 (46 50s, 9 100s), is second in the list

89 Her ODI wins as skipper, the most in the women's game

155 The number of times she led the Indian team, the highest in women's ODIs

214 Mithali's knock against England in Taunton in 2002 is the second-best Test innings among women behind Baluch's 242 (Pak vs WI, Karachi, 2004)

10,868 Her run tally across formats is the best in women's international cricket. Mithali and Edwards (10,273) are the only batters to reach the 10,000-run mark

NAMED IN THE ICC WOMEN'S ODI TEAM OF THE DECADE IN 2020

NUMBERS BY FORMAT

Tests	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	100s/50s
Overall	12	19	699	214	43.68	1/4

By opponent	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	100s/50s
England	7	12	511	214	51.10	1/3
South Africa	2	3	101	55	50.50	0/1
Australia	2	3	52	30	17.33	0/0
New Zealand	1	1	35	35	35.00	0/0

ODIs	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	100s/50s
Overall	232	211	7805	125 n.o.	50.68	7/64

By opponent	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	100s/50s
England	59	54	2005	98	48.90	0/20
Australia	37	37	1123	89	34.03	0/9
New Zealand	36	34	1261	109	46.70	1/9
Sri Lanka	28	22	1103	125 n.o.	157.57	3/8
South Africa	26	24	882	79 n.o.	46.42	0/10
West Indies	22	22	701	109 n.o.	43.81	1/3
Pakistan	11	9	271	103 n.o.	45.16	1/1
Ireland	10	6	335	114 n.o.	111.66	1/2
Bangladesh	2	2	73	73 n.o.	73.00	0/1
Netherlands	1	1	51	51	51.00	0/1

T20Is	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg.	100s/50s
Overall	89	84	2364	97 n.o.	37.52	0/17

By opponent	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
England	16	16	409	57	27.26	0/2
Sri Lanka	16	14	399	67	39.90	0/4
Australia	14	14	196	51 n.o.	17.81	0/1
Pakistan	10	10	315	73 n.o.	45.00	0/2
West Indies	10	10	295	55 n.o.	49.16	0/2
New Zealand	8	7	157	44	26.16	0/0
Bangladesh	7	6	213	55 n.o.	53.25	0/1
South Africa	6	5	232	76 n.o.	77.33	0/3
Malaysia	1	1	97	97 n.o.	-	0/1
Ireland	1	1	51	51	51.00	0/1

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO & ICC | COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD

'Not an impulsive or emotional decision'

Mithali says retirement had been on the cards ever since the World Cup

Memorable moments: Mithali said the high-points of her career were the 2005 and 2017 World Cups. • AP

V. V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Mithali Raj said she was delighted to be part of India's remarkable transformation that saw it emerge as a strong contender from a push-over in women's cricket.

"When I look back, I feel fortunate and privileged to see the evolution of women's cricket in India from my early days to the current era when the players are more recognised and have a fan base with huge support from the BCCI too," Mithali said in an exclusive chat with *The Hindu* from Lucknow where she is on a personal visit.

"The decision to quit was never an impulsive or an emotional one but had been on the cards ever since we came back from the last World Cup in New Zealand," Mithali said.

"I have always insisted that the World Cup would be my last international assignment. It was a huge disappointment personally and from the team's perspective. I hoped we would make it to the semifinal at least," she said.

"I did have a discussion with my father and other well-wishers before I decided to call it a day. It took time for me to come out of the disappointment of the World Cup. That was the reason why I played only one domestic match after that," Mithali said. "In a way, I was mentally preparing for this day after the World Cup," she added.

"I was not perturbed by the growing criticism in the recent past about my rate of scoring. These things come when you are successful and for so long at the highest level," she said.

"The high-points of my career were the 2005 and 2017 World Cups (50 overs). Not winning the World Cup would be the biggest regret," she said.

Saluting Mithali

We overcame odds, both in life and on the cricket field ever since we started playing under-19 cricket. Your affection and support as a colleague and captain always inspired and pushed me towards achieving greater heights. JHULAN GOSWAMI

To play for India is a dream very few fulfill and to be able to represent the nation for 23 years is just amazing. You have been a pillar to women's cricket in India. V.V.S. LAXMAN

Congratulations on a wonderful career. Countless youngsters around the world look up to you with inspiration and pride. YUVRAJ SINGH

In India, the name Mithali Raj has been synonymous with women's cricket. You have been an inspiration to millions all over the world. DINESH KARTHIK

Cricket is a dream and when I started off my career I had no idea that women's cricket existed but the only name ever told or heard was yours. HARMANPREET KAUR

Will miss those crispy drives and the No. 3 jersey!! Skipper, you have been such an inspiration. VANITHA V.R.

A poster girl for women's cricket, Mithali showed the path for a generation

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

For a long, long time, there was only one poster girl for Indian women's cricket. She answered to the name Mithali Raj.

For more than two decades, she carried the bat for the Women in Blue – and on the rare occasions when they wore whites – in admirable fashion.

She announced her retirement from international cricket, at the age of 39, on Wednesday. India's match against South Africa in the Women's World Cup at Christchurch on March 27 has turned out to be her last.

It had all begun when her father took her to her brother's cricket training sessions at Secunderabad where the coach first spotted her potential.

The game will miss her assured presence at the wicket, and those beauteous cover drives. Her friendly smile – even at the end of a demanding or even disappointing day – will also be missed. She has been a fine ambassador for women's cricket.

An inspiration

Mithali shattered several batting records. She inspired many girls to pick up a cricket bat when it wasn't the most glamorous thing to do.

From her bat have flown 7,805 runs in 232 ODIs and 2,364 in 89 T20Is. If she played only in 12 Tests, that is because women get to play a few of them. She scored 699 runs in those Tests; her 214, which she made at Taunton against England in 2002, remains the second highest individual score in Women's Tests.

With 10,868 runs, she is the leading scorer in international women's cricket.

She is also the highest run-getter in WODIs, in which she made a stunning debut aged 16 in 1999, with an unbeaten 114 against Ireland at Milton Keynes. She led India in two World Cup finals.

Bright stars

By the time Mithali reached the evening of her career, Indian women's cricket was no longer just about her, or the champion bowler and her contemporary, Jhulan Goswami. If the game has several bright stars now in Smriti Mandhana, Harmanpreet Kaur and Shafali Verma, she is one of the biggest reasons for that.

She was the Sunil Gavaskar of women's cricket the Sachin Tendulkars and Rahul Dravids wanted to emulate.

Driving Indian cricket forward: Mithali, who proved a motivation for many during her long career, was guided by coach Murthy throughout. She showcased her potential by scoring a double century against England as a 19-year-old. • FILE PHOTOS & V.V. KRISHNAN

Harmanpreet is ODI captain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Harmanpreet Kaur was on Wednesday named the Indian women's team ODI captain for the tour of Sri Lanka.

The squads: ODI: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-capt.), Shafali Verma, Yastika Bhatia (wk), S. Meghana, Deepti Sharma, Poonam Yadav, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Simran Bahadur, Richa Ghosh (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Renuka Singh, Taniya Bhatia (wk), and Harleen Deol.

T20I: Harmanpreet (Capt.), Smriti (Vice-capt.), Shafali, Yastika (wk), Meghana, Deepti, Poonam Yadav, Rajeshwari, Simran, Richa (wk), Pooja, Meghna, Renuka, Jemimah Rodrigues and Radha Yadav.

The schedule: T20Is: June 23, 25 and 27 (all at Dambulla); **ODIs:** July 1, 4 and 7 (all at Kandy).

SA could prove a handful for India

Pant to lead, Hardik named deputy after Rahul, Kuldeep report injuries

SA IN INDIA

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

An experimental India would have found the going tough against a formidable South Africa in the five-match T20 series. To add to the challenge, the injured duo of skipper K.L. Rahul and Kuldeep Yadav pulled out of the series on the eve of Thursday's opening clash at the Ferozeshah Kotla ground.

Rahul picked up a right groin injury whereas Kuldeep was hit on the hand while batting in the nets on Tuesday evening.

Rishabh Pant was handed over the captaincy and Hardik Pandya was named his deputy.

India appears set to test comeback men Dinesh Karthik and Hardik besides the untested duo of Arshdeep Singh and Umran Malik.

Leg-spinner Yuzuvendra Chahal could hold the key though some pacers will try to reinforce their claim to a more permanent spot in the playing XI.

There are plenty of bowlers to pick from and coach Rahul Dravid should have no problem in finding the right balance. In any case, Hardik's fitness and Karthik's consistency could again come under scrutiny.

Players like the strokeful Quinton de Kock, back-in-form David Miller, Aiden Markram, Rassie van der Dussen, speedsters Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Dwaine Pretorius and Marco Jansen are all too familiar with the conditions, having figured in the IPL.

The teams (from):

India: Rishabh Pant (Capt. & wk), Hardik Pandya (Vice-capt.), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Ishan Kishan, Deepak Hooda, Shreyas Iyer, Dinesh Karthik, Hardik Pandya, Venkatesh Iyer, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Avesh Khan, Arshdeep Singh and Umran Malik.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (Capt.), Quinton de Kock (wk), Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen and Marco Jansen.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

Shouldering the responsibility: Pant will be at the helm of a depleted Indian side. • R.V. MOORTHY

India-South Africa in T20Is

Overall	Matches 15	India 9	South Africa 6
In India	Matches 4	India 1	South Africa 3

2015: South Africa won by 7 wickets, Dharamshala

2015: South Africa won by 6 wickets, Cuttack

2019: India won by 7 wickets, Mohali

2019: South Africa won by 9 wickets, Bengaluru

THE SCHEDULE
June 9: Delhi | **June 12:** Cuttack | **June 14:** Visakhapatnam | **June 17:** Rajkot | **June 19:** Bengaluru

ALL MATCHES START AT 7 P.M

It's a very good feeling: Pant

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

In his breezy career, captaincy has come Rishabh Pant's way more by accident than design.

On Thursday evening, Pant took over as India's T20 captain .

Should the host beat South Africa at the Kotla, the 24-year-old will have the distinction of leading India to its world record setting 13th straight T20 victory.

"It's a very good feeling. Though it hasn't happened in very good circumstances, I'm feeling happy. There is no bigger opportunity than getting to lead India in your hometown," assured India's newest skipper.

Earlier, South African captain Temba Bavuma said, "It's an exciting series. We as a team won't be expecting anything easy. We aren't here thinking everything is going to happen the same way as it happened in South Africa. We know we're going to play cricket and prepare well which I think we've done. But it's an exciting series for everyone"

Chhetri on the double as India beats Cambodia

ASIAN CUP

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Skipper Sunil Chhetri scored both goals as India beat Cambodia 2-0 in the first round of its AFC Asian Cup 2023 qualifiers Group D fixture at the Salt Lake Stadium on Wednesday.

Playing his 127th match for the country, Chhetri netted his 81st goal by scoring from the spot in the 14th minute. He could have made it 2-0 by the half-hour mark but failed in the final third despite getting accurate crosses right-back Roshan Singh in the 22nd minute and left-back Akash Mishra 10 minutes later.

India controlled the match for a major part even the visitors sought to guard their citadel, employing as many as eight men for most of the contest. The hosts' attack-line struggled initially before settling down. Liston Colaco started finding chinks in the opposition's armour in partnership with Akash and the opening goal came when the former was brought down inside the box by Cambodia defender Kok Boris. Chhetri made no mistake with the penalty.

Chhetri... on the attack. • FILE PHOTO

India continued to press forward after the break as coach Igor Stimac made a couple of changes. The arrival of forward Sahal Abdul Samad and winger Udanta Singh, who replaced the struggling Manvir Singh and Anirudh Thapa, pepped up the attack. Chhetri provided the finish again, nodding home a Brandon Fernandes cross.

Other result: Hong Kong 2 (Wong Wai 23, Matthew Orr 27) bt Afghanistan 1 (Farshad Noor 81).

IN BRIEF

West Indies rides on Hope, amasses 305

MULTAN

Opener Shai Hope defied Pakistan's bowling attack and the sweltering Multan heat to lift the West Indies to 305 for eight in the first ODI on Wednesday. The 28-year-old's 134-ball 127, his 12th ODI hundred, contained 15 fours and a six. He added 154 with Shamarh Brooks for the second wicket.

The scores: West Indies 305/8 in 50 overs (Shai Hope 127, Shamarh Brooks 70, Haris Rauf 4/77) vs Pakistan. AFP

Australia seals series

COLOMBO

Australia beat Sri Lanka by three wickets with 13 balls to spare to clinch their three-match T20I series with a game to spare here on Wednesday. Pacers Jhye Richardson (3/26) and Kane Richardson (4/30) ran through the hosts' line-up.

The scores: Sri Lanka 124/9 in 20 overs (Charith Asalanka 39, Kusal Mendis 36, Kane Richardson 4/30, Jhye Richardson 3/26) lost to Australia 126/7 in 17.5 overs (Matthew Wade 26 n.o., Hasaranga 4/33). AP

LIVE TELECAST

NBA Finals: Game 3, Sports18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot, 6.30 a.m.
KIYG 2022: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
India vs. South Africa: 1st T20I, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7 p.m.
Golden Gala Pietro Mennea: Sports18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot, 11.30 p.m.
UEFA Nations League: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

IN BRIEF

Blatter and Platini start fraud trial

BELLINZONA (SWITZERLAND)

Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini, once the chiefs of world and European football, appeared in a Swiss court on Wednesday to face trial over a suspected fraudulent payment. The pair are being tried over a $2.08 million payment in 2011 to Platini, who was then in charge of UEFA. AP

Ramakrishna clinches gold

NEW DELHI

Sriharsha Devaraddi Ramakrishna became the second Indian para shooter to earn a quota for the Paris Paralympics after securing a gold in the mixed 10m air rifle SH2 catrgory at the Chateauroux Para Shooting World Cup. Ramakrishna produced a final score of 253.1 ahead of Francek Tirsek (252.6) and Tanguy De La Forest (230.3). PTI

Zverev undergoes surgery

BERLIN

Alexander Zverev has undergone surgery to repair torn ligaments in his right ankle. The third-ranked Zverev sustained the injury during his French Open semifinal against Rafael Nadal. He was taken off the court in a wheelchair, then returned on crutches to say he was retiring from the match. The 25-year-old German didn't specify a timetable for his return. AP

Australia makes playoffs

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DOHA

A late deflected goal from Ajdin Hrustic secured a 2-1 win for Australia in an Asian playoff Tuesday over the UAE and sets up an intercontinental showdown with Peru for a spot at the World Cup in Qatar.

The Australians are a win away from a fifth consecutive World Cup appearance after ending the UAE's bid for a return to the World Cup for first time since 1990.

Jackson Irvine steered in Martin Boyle's strong run and pinpoint pass but the UAE hit back minutes later through Caio Canedo. Hrustic's left-footed volley deflected off a defender before beating the goalkeeper at the fag end.

The result: UAE 1 (Canedo 57) lost to Australia 2 (Irvine 53, Hrustic 84).

Karan guides Uttar Pradesh to the semifinals

Karnataka fails to capitalise after setting a tricky target as the visiting team romps home by five wickets

RANJI TROPHY

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

A brilliant unbeaten 93 (163b, 13x4, 1x6) from captain Karan Sharma took Uttar Pradesh past Karnataka by five wickets in their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal encounter at Alur grounds here on Wednesday.

Karan, playing just his fourth First-Class match, showed nerves of steel to shut Karnataka out of the tournament. Karnataka added only 14 runs to its overnight tally to set a tricky target of 213, but the 24-year-old Karan made light of the task.

Planned assault: Karan made light of the chase with a well-paced, unbeaten 93. •R. RAGU

Unbroken stand

Karnataka had its chances on the third day, when the visitor was reduced to 28 for two and 114 for five. An unbroken 99-run sixth-wicket partnership between Karan and Prince Yadav (33 n.o.), however, crushed all hopes of a home win.

One-drop Priyam Garg (52, 60b, 6x4, 2x6) put Uttar Pradesh on the right track with an aggressive knock. Garg's hook off pacer Vidhwath Kaverappa, which sailed well over deep square-leg, showed that Uttar Pradesh was unwilling to take a backward step.

The start of the Uttar Pradesh essay did not inspire confidence. Openers Samarth Singh and Aryan Juyal threw away their wickets, playing away from the body to offer catches behind the wicket.

Shocking error

Batting mainstay Rinku Singh (4) fell to a shocking error in judgment. The southpaw shouldered arms to a straight delivery from Kaverappa, only for the ball to crash into his off-stump.

Dhruv Jorel's (9) glance off the hip was pouched by substitute wicketkeeper B.R. Sharath. The substitute was required after regular gloveman Sharath Srinivas left the field with a finger injury.

Karan found an able ally in Prince. Despite facing pressure from the Karnataka players – never shy to appeal, and chirp loudly – Prince stood firm.

Coming alive

Karan and Prince came alive in the final session, tonking the Karnataka attack to all parts to finish in style.

This is Karan's second successive match-winning effort in the final innings, having made 116 against Maharashtra to help Uttar Pradesh reach a stiff 357-run target.

Karan, who played one match in IPL 2022, stated that he picked up valuable tips from his Lucknow Super Giants teammates K.L. Rahul and Marcus Stoinis.

On his stellar knock, Karan said, "There was movement on this pitch, so the plan was to play as late and close to the body as possible. This win shows the character of our team."

The scoreboard: Karnataka – 1st innings: 253.

Uttar Pradesh – 1st innings: 155.

Karnataka – 2nd innings: R. Samarth b Prince 11, Mayank Agarwal c Jurel b Saurabh 22, Karun Nair c Rinku b Rajpoot 10, K.V. Siddharth b Rajpoot 15, Manish Pandey run out 4, Shreyas Gopal c Juyal b Saurabh 3, S. Sharath (not out) 23, K. Gowtham c Jurel b Mavi 1, V. Vyshak lbw b Saurabh 5, Ronit More c Jurel b Dayal 0, Vidhwath Kaverappa c Samarth Singh b Dayal 0; Extras (b-8, lb-9, nb-3): 20; Total (in 39 overs): 114.

Fall of wickets: 1-33, 2-35, 3-67, 4-71, 5-77, 6-84, 7-95, 8-100, 9-105.

U.P. bowling: Dayal 9-0-35-2, Rajpoot 8-2-15-2, Prince 4-2-6-1, Saurabh 16-4-36-3, Mavi 2-0-5-1

Uttar Pradesh – 2nd innings: Samarth Singh c Siddharth b Vyshak 14, Aryan Juyal c sub (B.R. Sharath) b Vyshak 1, Priyam Garg c Gopal b Gowtham 52, Karan Sharma (not out) 93, Rinku Singh b Kaverappa 4, Dhruv Jurel c sub (B.R. Sharath) b Vyshak 9, Prince Yadav (not out) 33, Extras (b-6, nb-1): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 65.2 overs): 213.

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-28, 3-87, 4-96, 5-114.

Karnataka bowling: Vyshak 17-5-47-3, More 10-2-27-0, Kaverappa 13.2-3-46-1, Gopal 8-0-38-0, Gowtham 17-3-49-1.

RANJI QUARTERFINALS, DAY 3

Bengal 773/7 decl. in 218.4 overs (Abhishek Raman 61, Abhimanyu Easwaran 65, Sudip Kumar Gharami 186, Anustup Majumdar 117, Manoj Tiwary 73, Abishek Porel 68, Shahbaz Ahmed 78, Sayan Mondal 53 n.o., Akash Deep 53 n.o.) vs. Jharkhand 139/5 in 43 overs (Nazim Siddiqui 53).

Note: Bengal made history by becoming the first team in First Class cricket to have nine of its players score fifty or more in the same innings.

Mumbai 647/8 decl. & 261/3 in 58 overs (Prithvi Shaw 72, Yashasvi Jaiswal 103, Aditya Tare 57) vs. Uttarakhand 114 in 41.1 overs (Kamal Singh 40, Shams Mulani 5/39).

Karnataka 253 & 114 in 39 overs lost to Uttar Pradesh 155 & 213/5 in 65.2 overs (Priyam Garg 52, Karan Sharma 93 n.o.).

Punjab 219 & 120/5 in 47 overs (Kumar Kartikeya 4/31) vs. Madhya Pradesh 397 in 154.5 overs (Himanshu Mantri 89, Shubham Sharma 102, Rajat Patidar 85, Akshat Raghuwanshi 69, Vinay Choudhary 5/83).

All matches at Bengaluru.

'The way we lost hurts'

Karnataka skipper Pandey blames it on second innings batting collapse

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

An inept batting display in the second innings of the Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Uttar Pradesh cost the side dear, Karnataka captain Manish Pandey said.

The home team was bowled out for 114, which allowed Uttar Pradesh back into the contest.

"The second innings – this was not our best batting performance. Yesterday was not a day we want to remember. We should have taken our time and seen the overs through. We cannot repeat the same mistake again," Pandey said after the loss to Uttar Pradesh.

The skipper admitted that his run-out was "a very stupid call", and that a "couple of bad shots cost us the game".

"The way we lost hurts. We had plans, we have so many senior batters, but a collapse like this really hurts us. If one of the batters had played the situation better, we could have been better placed.

"Our batters fell like a deck of cards, when one senior batter should have taken it upon himself to take us to safety. All of us senior batters have to step up our game," Pandey said.

Srinjoy pips Abhinav for air rifle gold

KIYG

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Srinjoy Datta was a class act as he defeated 14-year-old Bengal teammate Abhinav Shaw 16-14 for the air rifle gold in the Khelo India Youth Games at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Wednesday.

In a gripping climax which had the spectators joyfully expressing their appreciation for every shot, the 19-year-old Srinjoy came up with 10.5 or better shots 11 out of 15 times in the gold medal match.

Equally, except for his first and last shots, Abhinav hit all 10s, but was beaten by a superior opponent whose eight of last nine shots were 10.4 or better.

On the podium: Second-placed Abhinav, champion Srinjoy and Keval, the bronze medallist. •KAMESH SRINIVASAN

With the scores tied at 14-14, Abhinav, releasing his shots first right through the gold medal match, stumbled to 9.5, whereas Srinjoy delivered a 10.7 moments later, and punched the air in celebration.

Behind the two Bengal boys, Keval Prajapati won the bronze for Gujarat.

The results:

Youth men's air rifle: 1. Srinjoy Datta 16 (260.4) 626.1; 2. Abhinav Shaw 14 (261.5) 628.2; 3. Keval Prajapati 259.8 (621.4).

Anand beats Radjabov, moves closer to Carlsen

CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU

Continuing his stupendous run, Viswanathan Anand overpowered Teimour Radjabov in their Armageddon game to move within half-a-point of leader Magnus Carlsen following the seventh round of the 2022 Norway Chess tournament at Stavanger on Wednesday.

Going into the final rest day, Anand had 13 points after a dramatic day that saw Carlsen lose the Armageddon game to Aryan Tari, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave stop Wesley So in their classical game, like Shakhriyar Mamedyarov did against Anish Giri.

Anand, playing white, had to tread carefully against Radjabov in their classical game that was fought on an even keel before ending in a 42-move draw.

The results: Seventh round: Viswanathan Anand (13/23.5) drew with Teimour Radjabov (Aze, 5/23); Armageddon: Anand; Aryan Tari (Nor, 8.5/23.5) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 13.5/23); Armageddon: Tari; Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 11.5/23) bt Wesley So (USA, 10/23.5); Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze, 11.5/23) bt Anish Giri (Ned, 8/23); Veselin Topalov (Bul, 7/24) drew with Wang Hao (Chn, 5.5/23.5); Armageddon: Hao.

Ramkumar makes doubles quarterfinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Ramkumar Ramanathan and John-Patrick Smith defeated Lucas Pouille and Jack Sock 6-7(3), 7-6(4), [10-6] in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €134,920 Challenger tennis tournament in Nottingham on Wednesday. In the $25,000 ITF women's event in Thailand, Rutuja Bhosale downed fourth seed Peangtarn Plipuech 6-7(8), 6-4, 7-6(4), while Vaidehi Chaudhari sailed past eighth seed Fang Ying Xun of China 6-2, 6-4.

The results: €134,920 Challenger, Nottingham: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): John-Patrick Smith (Aus) & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Lucas Pouille (Fra) & Jack Sock (USA) 6-7(3), 7-6(4), [10-6].

$25,000 ITF, Chiang Rai: Men: First round: Manish Sureshkumar bt Naoki Tajima (Jpn) 6-2, 6-2; Fajing Sun (Chn) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 3-0 (retd.).

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Pruchya Isaro & Thantub Suksumrarn (Tha) bt Shashank Theertha & Manish Sureshkumar 7-5, 7-6(5).

Women: First round: Michika Ozeki (Jpn) bt Riya Bhatia 7-6 (5), 6-1; Rutuja Bhosale bt Peangtarn Plipuech (Tha) 6-7 (8), 6-4, 7-6(4); Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Fang Ying Xun (Chn) 6-2, 6-4; Ankita Raina bt Gozal Ainitdinova (Kaz) 6-7(5), 7-5, 6-3.

$15,000 ITF, Monastir: Men: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Wissam Abderrahman (Tun) & Karim Maamoun (Egy) bt Shivank Bhatnagar & Dharmil Shah 6-4, 6-3. **Women: First round:** Honoka Kobayashi (Jpn) bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-1, 6-0. **Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** I-Hsuan Cho (Tpe) & Ashmitha Easwaramurthi bt Beatrice Laura Pirtac (Irl) & Annerly Poulos (Aus) 6-4, 5-7, [10-4].

$15,000 ITF men, Tay Minh (Vietnam): First round: Dhakshineswar Suresh bt Minh Tuah Pham (Vie) 6-0, 6-1; Takuya Kumasaka (Jpn) bt Digvijay Pratap Singh 6-4, 6-0; Ken Cavrak (Aus) bt Suraj Prabodh 6-3, 6-4.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Rishi Reddy & Dhakshineswar Suresh bt Preston Brown & Kyle Seelig (USA) 6-3, 6-2; Shohei Chikami & Masamichi Imamura (Jpn) bt Seita Watanabe (Jpn) & S.D. Prajwal Dev 3-6, 6-0, [10-8].

$60,000 ITF women, Biarritz (France): Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Lara Salden (Bel) & Prarthana Thombare bt Magali Kempen (Bel) & Lea Tholey (Fra) 6-2, 6-2.

$25,000 ITF women, Santo Domingo: Second round: Mel Elizabeth Gonzalez (Ecu) bt Sravya Shivani 6-2, 6-1.

First round: Sravya bt Helena Bueno (Bra) 6-1, 6-1; Sharmada Balu bt Ana Carmen Zamburek (Dom) 1-6, 6-2, 7-5.

$25,000 ITF women, Tbilisi, Georgia: Second round: Arlinda Rushiti (Sui) bt Zeel Desai 5-7, 6-1, 7-6(7); **First round:** Zeel Desai bt Nutsa Tsintsadze (Geo) 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Sandra Samir (Egy) & Zeel Desai bt Ksenia Lasikutova (Rus) & Valentina Ryser (Sui) 6-1, 6-4.

$25,000 ITF women, Madrid: First round: Yvonne Cavalle-Reimers (Esp) bt Vasanti Shinde 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles: Quarterfinals: Nina Ugrelidze (USA) & Vasanti Shinde w/o Georgia Drummy (Irl) & Marta Encinas (Esp).

Hard-fought win for Sindhu

INDONESIA MASTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAKARTA

P.V. Sindhu and Lakshya Sen recorded contrasting victories to start their campaigns in the $360,000 Indonesia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

Easy for Lakshya

While World Championship bronze medallist Lakshya, seeded seventh, outwitted Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus 21-10, 21-18, two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu had to toil hard to get the better off Line Christophersen of Denmark 18-21, 21-15, 21-11 in a 51-minute match.

In other matches, Aakarshi Kashyap went down 12-21, 11-21 to USA's Beiwen Zhang in under 30 minutes, while Sameer Verma, on a comeback trail following an injury, lost 17-21, 15-21 to Indonesia's Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo.

Gallant fight

The mixed pairing of Ishaan Bhatnagar and Tanisha Crasto fought gallantly before losing 14-21, 21-16, 12-21 to fourth seeds Praveen Jordan and Melati Daeva Oktavianti of Indonesia.

Sindhu, who came into the match with a 3-0 record against Line, blew a 11-9 advantage to lose the opening game, primarily due to her unforced errors.

In the second game too, Sindhu squandered a 3-0 lead but Line too couldn't grab the opportunity.

The Dane played some superb cross-court smashes but errors put paid to her hopes.

She missed the lines far too many times and also found the nets a lot to undo all her good work.

The results (first round):

Men: Lakshya Sen bt Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus (Den) 21-10, 21-18; Chico Aura Dwi Wardoyo (Ina) bt Sameer Verma 21-17, 21-15.

Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Line Christophersen (Den) 18-21, 21-15, 21-11; Beiwen Zhang (USA) bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-12, 21-11.

Mixed doubles: Praveen Jordan & Melati Daeva Oktavianti (Ina) bt Ishaan Bhatnagar & Tanisha Crasto 2-14, 16-21, 21-12.

England snatches a draw

NATIONS LEAGUE

AGENCIES
MUNICH

England was spared a second successive Nations League defeat as Harry Kane's 50th goal for his country, a late penalty, salvaged a 1-1 draw away to Germany on Tuesday.

Germany deservedly led through Jonas Hofmann's 50th-minute effort but was unable to finish England off and Kane levelled in the 88th minute after being tripped in the area.

Lorenzo Pellegrini continued his impressive scoring form to help Italy beat Hungary 2-1 in Cesena.

The results: League A: Group 3: Germany 1 (Hofmann 50) drew with England 1 (Kane 88-pen); Italy 2 (Barella 30, Pellegrini 45) bt Hungary 1 (Mancini 61-og).

League B: Group 3: Finland 2 (Pohjanpalo 31, 38) bt Montenegro 0; Bosnia and Herzegovina 1 (Prevljak 68) bt Romania 0.

League C: Group 1: Faroe Islands 0 lost to Luxembourg 1 (Rodrigues 74); Lithuania 0 lost to Turkey 6 (Sinik 2, 14, Dursun 56-pen, 81, Akgun 89, Dervisoglu 90+1).

Level terms: Kane holds his nerve to fire in England's equaliser from the spot. •AP

Simon Grayson appointed Bengaluru FC head coach

Bengaluru FC will have its third head coach in as many years as it replaced Marco Pezzaiuoli with Simon Grayson ahead of the 2022-23 season.

Under German-born Italian Pezzaiuoli, who was initially appointed on a three-year "performance-based" contract, BFC had finished sixth in the 2021-22 edition of the Indian Super League, an improvement of one place compared to the 2020-21 season. Grayson has been appointed on a two-year contract.

Grayson's managerial career started in 2005, and the 52-year-old has overseen four promotions from the English League One with Blackpool (2007), Leeds United (2010), Huddersfield Town (2012), and Preston North End (2015). The Englishman's most-recent stint was with League One side Fleetwood, that sacked him last November after a disappointing set of results.

Simon Grayson. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As a player, Grayson came through the youth ranks at Leeds United, before moving to Leicester City in 1992, where he made over 220 appearances across five seasons. With Leicester, he secured promotion to the Premier League as captain and also won the English League Cup in 1997.

Srivatsa's six-for to no avail

M.N. Srivatsa's six-wicket haul (six for 23) went in vain as BWSSB Employees Association managed to defeat Karnataka Government Secretariat CC by 11 runs in the KSCA (Group II) second division tournament.

The scores: ITC SC 101 in 19.5 overs (A. Rohan Patil 34, S. Monish 26) lost to HAL SC 105/6 in 17.4 overs (Rahul Prasanna 61 n.o., Vishal Kothari 3/18).

BWSSB Employees Association 146/9 in 20 overs (Sourabh Manohar Naik 25, S. Amruth 26 n.o., M.N. Srivatsa 6/23) bt Karnataka Government Secretariat CC 135/9 in 20 overs (V. Prithvi 38, M. Renuka Prasad 4/27).

Yashas, Nouman help Air India fly high

Yashas V. Murthy (104) and Nouman Rahaman Khan (5/17) helped Air India SC beat GTRE SC by 86 runs in the KSCA (Group II) third division tournament.

The scores: Air India SC 242/8 in 41.3 overs (Yashas V.Murthy 104, Mohammad Rayan 46, Ashish Sharma 3/34) bt GTRE SC 156 in 33 overs (Amit Kumar Tigga 45, Nouman Rahaman Khan 5/17).

BHEL EPD CSBD 72 in 17.4 overs (R. Rahul 4/28, G.K. Srujan 3/22, Preetham 3/6) lost to SWR Rail Club 76/4 in 13.5 overs (Preetham 42, A. Srinivasa 3/24).

FCBU-Sevilla seal pact

FC Bengaluru United and Sevilla FC zeroed in on the major points of focus on Wednesday and finalised their partnership that was agreed upon in early 2021. The Spanish club will provide FCBU assistance in sports management, coach and player scouting, clinics and exchange programs among others.

A Sevilla delegation, including, club president Jose Castro Carmona, CEO Jose Maria Cruz, and GM of business Jorge Paradela is in the city for a five-day series of events that will include a Sevilla FC India fan club launch, a Football Hackathon event and Sevilla FC Junior Cup, a football tournament eligible for all age groups.

IT rallies to share points

Income Tax FC came back from three goals down to earn a 3-3 draw against Bangalore Gunners FC in the BDFA A-division league.

The results: RWF FC 1 (T.S. Aghin 51) bt Postal Dept FC 0; Friends United FC 2 (Don Bosco 49, Sudarshan 75) bt BTM FC 0; Income Tax FC 3 (Ilence Sharma 74, Kapil Bhat 76, Sagar Sharma 78) drew with Bangalore Gunners FC 3 (Cyril Justin 37, 58, Krishna Shankar 67); HAL FC 1 bt Rebels FC 0 (Tushar Biswakarma 19).

Adesh's good show in vain

Adesh Urs' all-round effort (54 & 4/28) went in vain as Young Lions lost to Six Cricket Academy by three wickets in the Tiger Cup under-16 cricket tournament.

The scores: Gopalan CC 233 for one in 30 overs (Krish Jha 95, Atharv Malvia 98) lost to Six Cricket Academy (Blue) 235/5 in 28.5 overs (Guru shreyas 80, Eashan 57 n.o., Pranjal Jain 57 n.o., Rajarshhi 3/47).

Max Muller English school 153/8 in 27 overs (Arya J.Gowda 39) bt Kapil CC 119/9 in 27 overs (Ayush Ponnappa 3/16).

Young Lions 169/7 in 30 overs (Adesh Urs 54, Rohith 25, S. Arnav 31) lost to Six Cricket Academy (Green) 172/7 in 25 overs (S. Vajra 56, T. Rishabh 38, Chinmay 32, Adesh Urs 4/28).

CCE 151/5 in 30 overs (Aarush 41, J. Poojith 28) lost to Eagle CC 152/2 in 22.2 overs (S. Siddarth 36, Sachith 50, Ishaan Noel 47).

On Tuesday: PESCA 112/6 in 30 overs lost to Six Cricket Academy (Green) 113/1 in 11 overs (Akash Shetty 52, S. Vajra 52 n.o.).

Gopalan Sports Centre 146/6 in 30 overs (Arthav Malvia 85) bt Social Cricketers 130 in 28 overs (Rajarshhi 5/21).

CCE 99/9 in 26 overs (Badri 3/10) lost to SRCA 100/5 in 24.2 overs(Dhruv Shetty 36).

KSBA-B posts win

KSBA-B defeated RMV Club 676-538 in a Group-D match of the Chandra Bhatia inter-club snooker championship being held here.

Other results: Group-A: KSCA Club House 633 bt KSBA-A 576; **Group-B:** Cosmopolitan Club 729 bt KGS Club 683; **Group-C:** Catholic Club 724 bt Vijayanagar Club 606.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP